

Chief Constable
Chief Constable Robert Carden
Police Headquarters
Carleton Hall Penrith,
Cumbria
CA10 2AU



2nd May 2025

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – FOI 436/25 ‘Cuckooing’

I refer to your request for information received by Cumbria Constabulary on the 9th of April 2025. I note you seek access to the following information:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would like to request some information from your police force.

This is in relation to 'cuckooing' which the government describes as a highly exploitative practice where criminals seize control of a vulnerable person's home without consent to conduct illegal criminal activities.

I would like to request the following information:

- 1. How many reports of cuckooing have you had within the financial year of (a) 2019-20 (b) 2020-21 (c) 2021-22 (d) 2022-23 (e) 2023-24 (f) 2024-25*
- 2. How many of these reports of cuckooing included people with disabilities in the financial year of (a) 2019-20 (b) 2020-21 (c) 2021-22 (d) 2022-23 (e) 2023-24 (f) 2024-25*
- 3. What is the gender breakdown of the victims of cuckooing across the financial year of (a) 2019-20 (b) 2020-21 (c) 2021-22 (d) 2022-23 (e) 2023-24 (f) 2024-25*

If you are able to provide the average age of victims in each financial year, I would be interested in that too.

Your request for information has been considered and I can confirm that Cumbria Constabulary does not hold the information you request in an easily retrievable format. In relation to your request, we do not hold a statistical function within our system which collates data under the heading of 'cuckooing'. To retrieve information, it would be necessary to review all drug related records to establish if any of the records are relevant to your request. Due to the thousands of entries relating to drug offences that would require a manual review, I am confident that the time taken to identify and extract the information will significantly exceed the "appropriate limit".

The "appropriate limit" is set out in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 and the current limit for police forces is set at £450, which equates to 18 hours of work.



EMPLOYER RECOGNITION SCHEME

BRONZE AWARD

Proudly supporting those who serve.



Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information, if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request will exceed the appropriate limit. In view of this, and in accordance with Section 17(5) of the Act, this letter serves as a Refusal Notice for your request.

In accordance with my duty under Section 16 of the Freedom of Information Act, 2000 (Duty to provide advice and assistance), I have tried to think of a way to recommend that your request may be refined to bring it under the limit explained above. At this time, unfortunately, I have no suggestions, due to the way that the information requested is recorded.

Complaint Rights

If you believe your request has not been properly handled, or you are otherwise dissatisfied with the outcome of your request, you have the right to request an internal review.

In the first instance, please email freedomofinformation@cumbria.police.uk quoting the FOI reference number and explain why you are dissatisfied. Your complaint will be considered and a response will be provided to you after your complaint has been investigated.

If you remain dissatisfied following conclusion of the internal review, you have the right, under section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act, to complain directly to the Information Commissioner.

The address for the Information Commissioner can be found below:

The Information Commissioner
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Complaints to the Information Commissioner can also be made online:

[Make a complaint | ICO](#)

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your interest in Cumbria Constabulary.



EMPLOYER RECOGNITION SCHEME

BRONZE AWARD

Proudly supporting those who serve.

