

Our Ref: FOI 22450
Your Ref: FOI 22434
Date: 29 January 2026

Internal Review

Re: Request for internal review of response to application for information under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, original request first notified to Staffordshire Police (SP) on 22/01/2026

SP refer to the above request which was expressed in the following terms:

I would be interested in any information held by your organisation regarding my request. If you need further clarification, please contact me by email.

How many cases of cuckooing have your force dealt with broken down by the following financial years 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025

I note that there is no specific Home Office code for "cuckooing". However, this data is recorded by some forces including the largest force in the UK. It is also worth noting that in the past forces have searched in Modern Slavery Enquiries for links to potential cuckooing and have been able to find the information within cost.

If 2015-2025 takes me over the cost limit, please send as many as possible with priority being the most recent years of data.

If my request is denied in whole or in part, I ask that you justify all deletions by reference to specify exemptions of the act. I will also expect you to release all non-exempt material.

Further to the above, SP also note the following comments made within your request for Internal Review.

I am unclear as to why the cost would be prohibitive for your force and yet for the largest police force dealing with more cases it is possible for the Met? I have stripped the question to singular question to make it as manageable as possible and chosen a question that in the past has garnered responses.

SP Response

Upon review of your request for information under the Freedom of Information provision referenced above and all corresponding communication, SP are of the opinion that the response issued, alongside all clarification provided, fully answers the terms of your request.

SP also confirm that the application of all exemptions outlined within this response are fully justified, and that the explanations and rationale for their application conveyed clearly and unequivocally.

However, please find below a brief rationale as to our application of exemption under Section 12(1) of the act.

SP note that you have been able to obtain information from further forces, whilst all forces are obligated to document and report all Home Office recordable offence; recording software, protocols and practices differ from force to force. What may be possible for one force may not necessarily be possible for another, depending upon the previously mentioned factors.

As you have stated within your request, there is no mandated recording protocol for offences falling under the widely acknowledged term of 'Cuckooing'; these being recorded under alternative offence types which may fall under a number of further Home Office offence classifications.

As outlined within our initial response, a search of our crime recording system was conducted for the offence type, under which this type of crime would most likely be recorded in this force. SP note your comments regarding other forces using Modern Slavery offences as a further search vector for this type of offence; however, broadening our search parameters to also include this would only exacerbate the issue and strengthen the justification for exemption under Section 12(1).

SP can therefore think of no further methods which could be employed to obtain the information requested within the mandatory timescale imposed by the Act.

Please be advised that all FOI requests and response letters are published on the Staffordshire Police website although personal details are not included.

If you are not content with the outcome of the review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner to investigate. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

<https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/foi-and-eir-complaints/foi-and-eir-complaints/>

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