



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2018-01713

**Keyword:** Crime

**Subject:** Cuckooing Crime

**Request and Answer:**

### **Request 1**

How do you collect data on the number of suspected or proven incidents of cuckooing in your area? Do you use markers or only collect when a crime is reported or prosecuted? When did you begin collecting this information?

### **Request 2**

How many incidents of cuckooing in your force area have you recorded in 2018, 2017, 2016?

### **Request 3**

What are the 'cuckooing' related offences people can be arrested for? I understand a number of orders can be made including Property Closures , Full or partial Criminal Behaviour Orders, Exclude the Offender Injunctions and Community Protection Notices.

### **Request 4**

Have you worked with any housing association or local authority to issue Closure Orders, or Injunction orders, or criminal behaviour orders related to cuckooing?

### **Request 5**

If these questions fail to get an answer with any data, would it be possible for you to search the term 'cuckooing' to see how many drug offences are related to the issue?

### **Answer**

A definition taken from a National Crime Agency (NCA) report into County Lines, considers "cuckooing" to be:

*"A criminal group exploiting young or vulnerable persons, to achieve the storage and/or supply of drugs, movement of cash proceeds and to secure the use of dwellings."*

Searches were conducted however these searches failed to locate any records or documents relevant to your request based on the information you have provided. Criminal Investigation Branch advise that there have been no incidents of "cuckooing" that have been uncovered in their operations.

PSNI Statistics Branch confirms that they do not hold any information in their NICHE (records management system) data extracts that would identify incidents of “Cuckooing”.

Additionally, PSNI Information Communication Services (ICS) Branch have run speculative searches on offences wording and occurrence enquiry logs (OEL) for the term ‘cuckooing’ and neither return any results

Accordingly, I have determined that the Police Service of Northern Ireland does not hold the information to which you seek access.

If you have any queries regarding your request or the decision please do not hesitate to contact me on 028 9070 0164. When contacting the Freedom of Information Team, please quote the reference number listed at the beginning of this letter.

If you are dissatisfied in any way with the handling of your request, you have the right to request a review. You should do this as soon as possible or in any case within two months of the date of issue of this letter. In the event that you require a review to be undertaken, you can do so by writing to the Head of Freedom of Information, PSNI Headquarters, 65 Knock Road, Belfast, BT5 6LE or by emailing [foi@psni.pnn.police.uk](mailto:foi@psni.pnn.police.uk).

If following an internal review, carried out by an independent decision maker, you were to remain dissatisfied in any way with the handling of the request you may make a complaint, under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act, to the Information Commissioner’s Office and ask that they investigate whether the PSNI has complied with the terms of the Freedom of Information Act. You can write to the Information Commissioner at Information Commissioner’s Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. In most circumstances the Information Commissioner will not investigate a complaint unless an internal review procedure has been carried out, however the Commissioner has the option to investigate the matter at his discretion.

Please be advised that PSNI replies under Freedom of Information may be released into the public domain via our website @ [www.psni.police.uk](http://www.psni.police.uk)

Personal details in respect of your request have, where applicable, been removed to protect confidentiality.

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