| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 25-0914  Responded to: 9 April 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## With cuckooing (“exercising control over another person’s dwelling without their consent to enable the dwelling to be used in connection with the commission of specified criminal activity”) set to become a crime under the new Crime and Policing Bill, I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I’m specifically seeking any data you have on:

## 1. The total number of cuckooing cases reported to your authority between January 2020 and December 2024

## 2. The total number of confirmed cases of cuckooing within the same timeframe

## 3. The number of cuckooing cases investigated or taken further by your authority

## 4. The number of arrests connected to ‘county lines’ drug offences within the same timeframe

## If possible, I would appreciate the data being presented as a month-by-month breakdown for each year in question (2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024).

## It would also be helpful for the data to be split by towns/areas in a separate table. If providing a full month-by-month breakdown or a separate table

Unfortunately, I estimate that it would cost well in excess of the current FOI cost threshold of £600 to process your request. I am therefore refusing to provide the information sought in terms of section 12(1) of the Act - Excessive Cost of Compliance.

Crimes in Scotland are recorded in accordance with the [Scottish Government Justice Department (SGJD)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/user-guide-recorded-crime-statistics-scotland-3/documents/) offence classifications and there is no offence of ‘cuckooing’ specifically.

As such, any relevant offences would be recorded under a more general category and so case by case assessment would be required to determine the circumstances and identify any instances of “cuckooing”. This is an exercise which I estimate would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

If you require any further assistance, please contact us quoting the reference above.

You can request a review of this response within the next 40 working days by [email](mailto:foi@scotland.police.uk) or by letter (Information Management - FOI, Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalmarnock, G40 4EH). Requests must include the reason for your dissatisfaction.

If you remain dissatisfied following our review response, you can appeal to the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner (OSIC) within 6 months - [online](https://www.foi.scot/appeal), by [email](mailto:enquiries@foi.scot) or by letter (OSIC, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, KY16 9DS).

Following an OSIC appeal, you can appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.

This response will be added to our [Disclosure Log](http://www.scotland.police.uk/access-to-information/freedom-of-information/disclosure-log) in seven days' time.

Every effort has been taken to ensure our response is as accessible as possible. If you require this response to be provided in an alternative format, please let us know.