

3 July 2017

Freedom of Information Request - Reference No: 20171047

REQUEST

I am looking into and comparing how different Police forces across the United Kingdom tackle and prevent drug dealers from 'Cuckooing' vulnerable people in their communities. I would like to know:

- 1. What measures are in place to help prevent 'Cuckooing' from happening**
- 2. What action the Council take when finding out 'Cuckooing' is taking place in their community**
- 3. How do you tackle it?**
- 4. Do you have work with your local Council to prevent and tackle 'Cuckooing'?**

RESPONSE

You may not be aware that Section 8 of the Freedom of Information Act concerns recorded information a public authority may hold. Your request appears to be seeking general comment, explanation and opinion which is not covered by the legislation.

Nevertheless, under Section 16 of the Act, I have a duty to assist and as such, I have made enquiries with the Business Managers for each of our four districts- Sheffield, Barnsley, Rotherham and Doncaster.

Our Doncaster Superintendent has advised the following:

This is not an issue in Doncaster with little or no recollection of the last time it occurred. That said preventative work around safeguarding vulnerable adults against this and other crime types has been routinely discussed across partners at the Doncaster Adults Board and should we have this type of incident, it would be tackled across practitioners with strategic oversight at the Board

Our Barnsley Inspector has advised:

We have no recorded information on the concept of 'cuckooing', as this is not a defined MO. I would only be able to give anecdotal information on how the police and council work together to prevent and protect vulnerable people from being exploited in this way.

Our Rotherham Superintendent has advised:

Most of the questions require commentary rather than recorded information, which means that it is not suited to a FOI requestwe do not record separate categories under safeguarding adults. Vulnerable adults are identified and referrals made ... Cuckooing does happen and in Rotherham, we have a multi-agency Vulnerable Persons unit that would review, ensure safeguarding is in place etc. this is overseen by the LSAB (Local Safeguarding Adults Board).

Our Acting Inspector for Sheffield has advised:

No, specific recordings. There are cases logged under vulnerability. Cuckooing is terminology attributed to an MO. The cases can be recorded in different ways, to obtain specific data would require extensive researching of data bases on SYP and SCC (Sheffield City Council).