



# Cuckooing and coercion

**HAS SOMEONE TAKEN OVER  
YOUR HOME TO SELL DRUGS?**

If someone, or more than one person, has taken over your home and is selling drugs from it, then you are a victim of a crime. It is called 'cuckooing'.

If this has happened to you, then the police will help you as the victim – and not the one committing the crime.

You might be afraid to tell someone. You might feel unsafe. These people who have taken over your home might be threatening you or your family. You may be afraid to ask them to leave. Or you might fear losing your home or even being deported.

You have done nothing wrong. You are the victim. The police will help you.

## **MODERN DAY SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

This is when someone is tricked, coerced (forced) or threatened into taking work, or getting involved in criminal activity. Usually someone is benefiting financially from the situation, but not always.

Victims of modern slavery and human trafficking can be any age, sex, nationality or ethnicity. Often, victims are vulnerable people.

They're not able to leave the work or criminal activity, or report it to the police, because they're afraid of what might happen to them if they do.

It is possible that someone may not realise that it's happening to them. Modern slavery and human trafficking includes a wide range of abuses, such as slavery, being in service to someone, forced or compulsory labour and trafficking someone for the purpose of exploiting them. It can include children.

## **GETTING IN CONTACT WITH THE POLICE**

Call Merseyside Police on 101 (or 999 if it's an emergency). Tell them it is about 'Cuckooing' or say 'Operation Trespass', which is what the police call their activities to stop cuckooing.

Or, call the charity Crimestoppers – who will not take your name – on 0800 555 111.

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