



I'm at risk - what do I do?

In an emergency, always call 999.
If you are worried about cuckooing, you can report it to police on 101 or online at: herts.police.uk.

If you don't want to give your name, call the independent, charity-run 24/7 Modern Slavery & Exploitation Helpline: 08000 121 700.

Get further support

To talk through any issues or concerns, or to receive practical advice or support through an allocated caseworker:

Call Beacon (Hertfordshire's Victim Care Centre) on 03000 115 555.

Beacon's aim is to help people cope and recover from crimes committed against them.

Independent from the police, their team of dedicated and trained professionals will support you every step of the way.



Cuckooing

Could you be at risk?



HERTFORDSHIRE
Modern Slavery Partnership



1. What is cuckooing?

Cuckooing is when a criminal or a person you might know, takes over your home for criminal purposes. There are different types of cuckooing.

Examples include:

- Using your property to deal, store or take drugs.
- Using your property to deal or store weapons.
- Using your property for sex work.
- Taking over your property as a place for them to live.
- Taking over your property to financially abuse you.

You may be threatened physically or verbally by this person once they are in your property.



2. How does it start?

A drug dealer, or someone known to you, will try to make friends with you. Their intention is to deceive so that they can exploit you and use your property.

They may offer you 'gifts' and free or cheap alcohol or drugs and in return they may ask if they can meet other drug dealers at your home or keep drugs at your house.

They might ask if they can stay with you, or move in with you, or invite others to stay without your permission.

You may be threatened physically or verbally if you do not allow this to happen or change your mind.



3. The risks of cuckooing

If criminal activity is taking place or drugs are found in your property by the police, there is a risk that you will end up being interviewed or arrested.

You could lose access to benefits or be evicted by your housing provider. Your property could also be subject to a closure order, which would mean no-one would be allowed entry to your home for up to six months.

We encourage you to engage with the police or contact the independent charity, [Beacon](#), if you think you are a victim of cuckooing, so we can work with you to keep you safe.