

Please ask for : Alethea Fuller
Telephone Number: 0121 626 6060
Our Reference: 2025-01516
wmpcc@westmidlands.police.uk



Date: 25/11/2025

Dear FOI Applicant,

Thank you for your freedom of information request received in this office on **31 October** 2025 in which you asked:

'I am conducting an academic research project for my Honours degree in Youth Justice at the University of Suffolk. My research explores how rap lyrics, drill music videos, and social media posts are used as forms of evidence in youth prosecutions in England and Wales, and what this reveals about fairness and cultural bias.

For the period 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2024, I would be grateful if you could provide information held by West Midlands Police on the following:

1. *The number of investigations or prosecutions involving defendants or suspects aged under 18 in which rap lyrics, drill music, or social media content were cited, referenced, or used as evidence or intelligence.*
2. *Where available, a breakdown by:*
 - o *(a) age of the individual(s) concerned;*
 - o *(b) ethnicity;*
 - o *(c) primary offence type.*
3. *Any internal policy, guidance, or training materials used by West Midlands Police officers or analysts regarding the identification, assessment, or use of music or social-media content as evidence or intelligence.*
4. *Any briefings, reports, or communications issued by or to senior officers about the role of rap, drill, or social-media content in investigations or prosecutions.'*

In response to your request, I can confirm that the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) does not hold this information. However, this information may be held by West Midlands Police.

In order to be of some assistance, please see the following contact details should you wish to submit your request to West Midlands Police.

Freedom on Information Unit

West Midlands Police
PO Box Box 52, Lloyd House
Colmore Circus Queensway
Birmingham
B4 6NQ
E-mail: foi@westmidlands.police.uk

Freedom of Information Right of Appeal

Any person who has requested information from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) and is unhappy with the way their request for information has been handled can request a review of their case.

A request for review must be made in writing by letter or email. You should include the reference number of your request if you have it, and outline why you are requesting the review to:

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
Lloyd House
Birmingham
B4 6NQ

Telephone: 0121 626 6060
Email: wmpcc@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk

All requests for review will be recorded. Receipt of a request for internal review will be acknowledged and the appellant informed of an estimated date for determining the outcome. The OPCC will attempt to respond to internal reviews as soon as practicable and in any case within two months.

All investigations will be undertaken by someone not involved in the original response.

The result of any internal review will be communicated to the appellant outlining the decisions taken.

If you remain dissatisfied with the handling of your request or complaint, you have a right to appeal to the Information Commissioner at:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Telephone: 08456 30 60 60 or 01625 54 57 45
Website: www.ico.gov.uk

There is no charge for making a request for internal review or appeal to the Information Commissioner.

Yours sincerely,



Alethea Fuller
Deputy Chief Executive