

Date: 08/12/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/015947/I

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/015947/I

I write in connection with your request for information dated 01/12/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I am requesting the below information via the Freedom of Information Act in relation to use of Section 136 of the mental health act.

I am not requesting any personal data or copies of individual logs.

Please provide aggregated information only extracted from escalation notes or STORM/NICHE/CONNECT (or other relevant) logs/information stored on the below.

For the period March 2023 - November 2025, please provide:

The number of Section 136 detentions that required escalation due to:

- a. no health-based place of safety bed available***
- b. no mental health staff available***
- c. delays in NHS acceptance***
- d. delays in ambulance transfer***
- e. the place of safety being closed***
- f. any other operational issue (please categorise)***
- 1. For each category, the number of cases where officers were required to:***
 - a. wait in a police vehicle***
 - b. wait in an A&E department***
 - c. wait outside a health facility***
 - d. remain with the individual for more than:***
 - 1 hour***
 - 2 hours***
 - 4 hours***
 - 8 hours***
- 2. The longest recorded waiting time before transfer to a place of safety during the period.***
- 3. Any internal performance statistics routinely collected about S136 delays (not narrative notes).***

Result of Searches

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Greater Manchester Police (GMP) to locate the requested information and I can confirm the information requested is held by GMP.

However, GMP does not hold the information that you have requested in an easily retrievable format.

GMP would be unable to respond to this request in under 18hrs, this is because the information requested is not held in any central location for easy extraction. The only way to achieve this would be to complete a manual review. S136 Escalations and reasons for these are recorded within the individual SLT notes/emails and is not a formal GMP data set and so without a review being carried out we would not be in a position to provide the data. From March 2023 – Nov 2025 there have been over 5000 s136 MHA detentions.

Therefore, as per **Section 12(1)** of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the cost of providing you with the information is above the amount to which we are legally required to respond i.e. the cost of locating and retrieving the information exceeds the 'appropriate level' as stated in the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter acts as a Refusal Notice.

If one part of the request engages a Section 12 response, the whole request will engage a Section 12 response. The reason being is locating, retrieving and extracting any further information would only add to the already exceeded time obligations.

GMP is obligated, pursuant to section 16(1) of the Act to provide you with advice and assistance on refining your request to bring compliance within the fees limit. In order for the force to attempt to keep this within the fees limit, the information you are requesting will need revising with a reduced time frame and a reduction in the volume of required data. With any request that requires a manual review there is always a chance of a request being refused under S12 due to the enormity of work that is usually needed to provide the data, therefore the resulting response cannot be guaranteed at this point as it will be dependent upon the number of records that fall within the scope of any new request, as they would still have to be manually assessed.

Should you wish to refine and resubmit your request in line with the advice above please respond to freedomofinformation@gmp.police.uk.