



Date: 26/01/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/016039/L

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/016039/L

I write in connection with your request for information dated 18/11/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Please provide the following information for the period March 2023 - November 2025, within the geographical area covered by your Integrated Care Board.

Scope:

- *Legal status: Individuals detained under Section 136 of the Mental Health Act*
- *Place of safety: Cases where an Emergency Department (A&E) was used as the initial/first health-based place of safety*
- *Population: All individuals, with the information broken down into the following age groups:*
 - *Children and young people*
 - *Adults*

I am not requesting data relating to police stations or dedicated Section 136 suites.

Information requested:

1. Use of A&E as first place of safety

For each of the age groups listed above, please provide:

- *The number of individuals detained under Section 136 where A&E was recorded as the first place of safety.*

2. Time spent in A&E

Where recorded or monitored by the ICB (including via provider returns, dashboards, or escalation reports), please provide for each age group:

- *The average (mean) length of time individuals detained under Section 136 spent in A&E; and*
- *The median length of time spent in A&E.*

If exact time measurements are not held, please provide the closest available aggregate measures used locally (for example, time bands, summary indicators, or the 95th percentile where available).

3. Police presence in A&E

Please advise whether the ICB records, monitors, or receives information relating to police presence in A&E for individuals detained under Section 136.

If so, please provide any aggregate information held, broken down by the age groups above, including where available:

- The number or proportion of cases where police officers remained with the individual in A&E beyond arrival; and*
- Any available information on the frequency or duration of police presence in A&E during Section 136 detentions.*

Cost and limitations:

If providing information for the full period would exceed the cost limit, please instead provide the information for the most recent period available, preferably from March 2024 onwards.

If any element of this request exceeds the information held, I would be grateful if you could provide the closest available data within these parameters, together with a brief explanation of any limitations.

Request 2 merged - Revised from 01/FOI/25/015947/I

Please provide details of any routinely collected performance, management, or oversight data held by GMP relating to delays or extended police involvement in Section 136 detentions, including but not limited to:

- Average or maximum officer time spent with S136 detainees*
- Average or maximum time from detention to handover*
- Any metrics on delayed handover to health services*
- Any data provided to the ICB, NHS partners, PCC, or Home Office relating to S136 delays*

I am not requesting narrative logs or case-by-case reviews.

In the circumstance that the above information is not available or not feasible, please provide the following:

For the period 1–31 October 2025 only, please provide:

- The number of Section 136 detentions where officers remained with the individual for longer than 2 hours after arrival at a healthcare setting*
- The longest recorded waiting time in that period*

This request is limited to one calendar month only.

Result of Searches

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

However, GMP does not hold the information that you have requested in an easily retrievable format. To provide the data requested would involve a manual search of all incidents where S136 is mentioned to establish the information on whether a suite was attended and the length of time an officer remained with the person.

A search of our incident records shows that there are 1,899 incidents where S136 is mentioned that would have to be manually reviewed. At a very conservative estimate of 5 minutes to

locate, retrieve and review each file it would take approximately 158 hours to ascertain the data required.

Therefore, to comply with the whole of your request the process would take over 18 hours' work which exceeds the appropriate limit of £450.00, the amount to which we are legally required to respond.

As per section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the cost of providing you with the information is therefore 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.

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 keep this within the fees limit, the information that you are requesting will need to be reduced to a greatly reduced time period. 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