

WILTSHIRE POLICE



XXXXXXX
By email

**Force Disclosure Unit
Police Headquarters**
London Road
DEVIZES
Wiltshire
SN10 2DN

Date 13th October 2026

Our Ref FOI 2026-844

Dear XXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 12th September 2026, concerning Section 136 detention data. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding to your request.

I am required by the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to handle all requests in a manner that is blind as to the identity and motives of the requestor. Any information released as a response to a request is regarded as being published and therefore in the public domain without caveat.

Following receipt of your request, research was conducted by the Public Protection Department at Wiltshire Police.

Your request for information has now been considered and I am able to respond as follows.

You wrote and our response:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please provide the following information for section 136 Mental Health Act detentions initiated by your force between 1 April 2025 and 31 March 2026. Please count detention episodes, not unique people.

To keep the request proportionate, its scope is limited to existing aggregate reports and routinely held structured section 136 records.

It excludes manual examination of individual incident narratives or clinical files, and obtaining information from NHS organisations.

1. The total number of section 136 detention episodes.

272

2. The number by first place of safety: A&E/emergency department, mental-health/health-based place of safety other than A&E, police station, other, and unknown. Your existing recorded categories are acceptable; no cross-tabulation is requested.

Blank - 1

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Green Lane Hospital - 174

Great Western Hospital - 41

Mason Unit, Bristol - 16

Melksham Custody - 2

Royal United Hospitals - 14

Salisbury District Hospital - 24

3. Where actual section 136 detention duration is recorded, the number lasting 24 hours or more, and the number with duration unknown. Please use the recorded statutory detention clock, rather than time spent by police at the incident or hospital. If only police attendance/handover duration is held, please identify that instead of treating it as detention duration.

No information held.

Wiltshire Police usually record when an individual was detained and when they were handed over to the place of safety. Once responsibility was transferred to health services, we would not hold further information relating to when the Mental Health Act assessment took place, when the Section 136 detention ended and whether the individual was admitted or discharged.

This information may be held by Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership (AWP). We would therefore suggest contacting AWP in relation to this part of your request, under our section 16 duty to advise and assist.

4. The number recorded as reaching 24 hours on that clock without a completed formal Mental Health Act assessment. If your existing data distinguish assessments not yet started from those started but unfinished, please provide those existing counts separately. Please identify the meaning of the assessment field used; general triage or initial clinical screening should not be treated as a formal Mental Health Act assessment.

No information held - as above.

For items 3 and 4, if the information is not held in these sources or would require individual case review, please say so; no such review is requested. Please distinguish a recorded zero from unavailable or missing information. Existing reports or tables are welcome, with a brief indication of their definitions and coverage where already documented.

I am satisfied that all the relevant information has been passed to me and been considered in the light of your request within the time constraints applicable under the legislation.

Wiltshire Police would like to thank you for the interest that you have shown in the Force.

Yours sincerely,

FDU Decision Maker

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