

15 September 2026

FOI Ref 23382

Request - You asked Staffordshire Police (SP) the following:

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.
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.
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.
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.

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.

Please reply by email, preferably with any tables in CSV or Excel.

Links to information already published are acceptable. If the request as scoped would exceed the cost limit, please advise how it could be narrowed to obtain the available information.

SP received your request on 14/09/2026 and have processed this under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

SP's response to your enquiry is as follows:



SP holds some of the requested information.

1. The total number of section 136 detention episodes.

- Disclosed: 554

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.

A&E/emergency department,

- Disclosed: 96

mental-health/health-based place of safety other than A&E,

- Disclosed: 458

police station,

- Disclosed: 0

other,

- Disclosed: 0

unknown

- Disclosed: 0

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.

- Disclosed: No information held.

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

- Disclosed: No information held.

This data has been provided to the best of the ability of SP, subject to the limitation of current recording protocols and systems and software.

Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that data is extracted from multiple sources, developed for specific policing purposes, for which data extraction methods have not been specifically designed to directly correlate with the terminology of this request. Therefore, the data presented is subject to the inaccuracies and idiosyncrasies inherent in any large-scale recording system. Consequently, care should be taken in the interpretation and presentation of this data, to not misrepresent the whole or any part of the data disclosed.

All Freedom of Information request responses are published on the SP website although personal details are not included.

Freedom of Information Request Appeals Procedure

1. Who Can Ask for a Review

Any person who has requested information from SP, which has been dealt with under the Freedom of Information Act, is entitled to complain and request an internal review, if they are dissatisfied with the response they received.

2. How to Request a Review

Requests for review of a Freedom of Information request must be made in writing within two months of the date of receipt of this email, and should be addressed to:

IAT@staffordshire.police.uk

Or by Post to:

Information Access Team
Staffordshire Police HQ
PO Box 3167
Stafford
ST16 9JZ

The reference number, date of the request and details of why the review is being requested must be included. Requests for review should be brought to the attention of the Information Access Team within two months of the SP response to the original FOI request.

3. Review Procedure

Receipt of a request for review will be acknowledged in writing. The review will be conducted by a supervisor who is independent from the original Decision Maker. The Information Access Team will set a target date for a response. The response will be made as soon as is practicable with the intention to complete the review within twenty working days. In more complex cases the review may take up to forty working days.

The independent supervisor will conduct a review of the handling of the request for information and of decisions taken, including decisions taken about where the public interest lies in respect of exempt information where applicable. The review enables a re-evaluation of the case, considering the matters raised by the complaint.

4. Conclusion of the Appeal

On completion of the review the independent supervisor will reply to the appellant with the result of the review. If the appellant is still dissatisfied following the review they should contact the Information Commissioner to make an appeal. The Information Commissioner can be contacted via the following link: <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/foi-and-eir-complaints/foi-and-eir-complaints/>



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

Freedom of Information
Information Access Team

A safe and confident Staffordshire