

Reference: FOI. ICB-2526/321

Subject: Use of A&E as first place of safety under Section 136

I can confirm that the ICB does not hold the information requested; please see responses below:

QUESTION	RESPONSE
Please provide the following information for the period March 2023 - November 2025, within the geographical area covered by your Integrated Care Board.	
Scope:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The number of individuals detained under Section 136 where A&E was recorded as the first place of safety. 	The ICB does not hold this information. We advise you to contact the acute hospital trusts who may hold this, as follows:

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.

North Bristol NHS Trust (NBT): <https://www.nbt.nhs.uk/about-us/information-governance/freedom-information/request-information>

University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust (UHBW): <https://www.uhbw.nhs.uk/p/how-we-use-your-data/freedom-of-information-foi-requests>

The information provided in this response is accurate as of 17 December 2025 and has been approved for release by David Jarrett, Chief Delivery Officer for NHS Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire ICB.