

Response Date:07/03/2025

2025/182 - Mental health act assessment (MHAA)

In response to your recent request for information excess cost is relevant to part which removes the forces obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, as a gesture of goodwill, I have supplied information, relative to your request, retrieved or available before it was realised that the fees limit would be exceeded. I trust this is helpful, but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request.

I am following up on this report:

<https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fnews.npcc.police.uk%2Freleases%2Fthousands-of-people-suffering-mental-health-issues-may-be-unlawfully-held-by-police-due-to-lack-of-available-hospital-beds&data=05%7C02%7CFreedomofinformationteam%40northwales.police.uk%7C185fe6e500de494014a908dd494e50b9%7C4e86b176a10e43bd8d27927f44d0e665%7C0%7C0%7C638747322893618940%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIIYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIIAiOiJXaW4zMjIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C0%7C&sdata=aHRPKIyQRG2QMhQT40nDyDXFQp%2BBLA7YOdEO2OaUc0%3D&reserved=0>

To that end, can you please provide to me:

- The overall number of arrests you made which led to a mental health act assessment (MHAA) taking place in custody, where a decision was taken to admit the arrestee/patient under S2/3 of the Mental Health Act between 2014-2024 (broken down by year),**

And, of those overall cases, by year:

- How many of those cases each year involved a subsequent detention in custody which exceeded the statutory maximum period under PACE due to a mental health bed not being found.
- Of those cases, please can you tell me the longest someone was held in custody past the PACE limit each year as a bed could not be located.

Our information is set up and searchable for our policing purposes. There is no field to record an assessment has been carried out and the outcome. We have searched Custody Arrivals 2014-2024 + Medical Detention Log Records with Keywords "Mental Health Act Assessment", "MH Act Assessment" or MHA Assessment", however the his does not indicate if the assessment was considered but not undertaken etc. To obtain the information in the format you have requested would involve manually reviewing each record on our force system. 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 retrieving the information exceeds the 'appropriate level' as stated in the Freedom of Information (FOI) Fees and Appropriate Limit regulations 2004.

Therefore, in accordance with the FOI Act 2000 the information you have requested is exempt under Section 12 (1), and this letter acts as a Refusal Notice under section 17 (5) of the legislation.

- Your policy as of 2025 regarding MHAA's in custody, and escalation procedures if a bed is not available. If you no longer detain sectioned patients after their PACE clock expires, please also provide your policy on that, and where they are taken instead of custody.

I am specifically not interested in S136, or your policy on that.

If you do not have all the information to hand, please provide me with what you can, ideally the most recent data.

Please see the answer to question one above.

However, North Wales Police do not have a policy on detainees who are detained and then subject to a mental health assessment and sectioned.

THIS INFORMATION HAS BEEN PROVIDED IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST
UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000, AND IS CORRECT AS AT 06/03/2025