



**HEDDLU
GOGLEDD CYMRU
NORTH WALES
POLICE**

Response Date:13/10/2026

2026/947 - Section 136 detention data.

In response to your recent request for information, excess costs in relevant to parts of your request as to obtain all 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.

Although excess cost removed 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.

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 avoid the need for manual examination of individual incident narratives or clinical files, and obtaining information from NHS organisations and to keep the request within the cost threshold, we have limited it to existing aggregate reports and routinely held structured section 136 records.

1. The total number of section 136 detention episodes.

Month	Total
April 25	32
May 25	28
June 25	26
July 25	33
August 25	43
September 25	32
October 25	29
November 25	31
December 25	34
January 26	25
February 26	32
March 26	42
TOTAL	387

Pencadlys yr Heddlu,
Glan-y-Don, Bae Colwyn LL29 8AW
www.heddlugogleddcymru.police.uk

Police Headquarters,
Glan-y-Don, Colwyn Bay LL29 8AW
www.northwales.police.uk

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.

Without manual examination of every event – I can confirm that approximately 55% of 136's have to go to Emergency Department as a first place of safety. This is usually because each of the three Section 136's across North Wales are occupied already and may be used as a general needs bed for patients who should be in hospital. Since June 2026 we are now starting to gather this data – but it is not recorded for the dates requested in this FOI.

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.

All Section 136 detention duration is unknown without a manual search of every event.

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.

These would require manual and individual detailed case review.

Lapsed 136's after 36 hours would usually be due to a medical need, and the person would likely be in hospital (ED).

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.

Yes, items 3 and 4 would require individual case review.

THIS INFORMATION HAS BEEN PROVIDED IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST
UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000, AND IS CORRECT AS AT 12/10/2026