



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST 2024/27868

Dear requester,

Thank you for your recent request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Section 1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) places two duties on public authorities. Unless exemptions apply, the first duty at, **Section 1(1) (a)**, is to confirm or deny whether the information specified in a request is held. The second duty at, **Section 1 (1) (b)**, is to disclose information that has been confirmed as being held.

The information that you are seeking is in relation to the following:

REQUEST

Please could I request the following information Under the Freedom of Information Act:

For each of the last four calendar years (2019, 2022, 2023, and 2024) could you please provide me with:

- the number of individual arrests under sections 136 and 137 of the Mental Health Act;
- the number of individual arrests of children, being under 18-years-old, under sections 136 and 137 of the Mental Health Act;
- the number of individual instances when a police officer was physically harmed by someone whilst making an arrest or looking after someone under sections 136 and 137 of the Mental Health Act;
- the number of individual instances of someone self-harming whilst in your custody; and
- the number of individual instances of someone ending their life whilst in your custody.



RESPONSE

For each of the last four calendar years (2019, 2022, 2023, and 2024) could you please provide me with:

- the number of individual arrests under sections 136 and 137 of the Mental Health Act.
- the number of individual arrests of children, being under 18-years-old, under sections 136 and 137 of the Mental Health Act.
- the number of individual instances when a police officer was physically harmed by someone whilst making an arrest or looking after someone under sections 136 and 137 of the Mental Health Act.
- the number of individual instances of someone self-harming whilst in your custody; and
- the number of individual instances of someone ending their life whilst in your custody.

Please note that the software only provides data from 2022, therefore the data we have provided is based on April 2022 to September 2024.

Custody is not used as a place of safety anymore; therefore, we do not have arrests under sections 136 and 137 of the Mental Health Act.

Persons are taken to hospital or to the Mental Health Unit.

Please see the attached table with the number of persons detained under section 136.

Persons detained under Section 136		
2022-23	Apr	0
	May	0
	Jun	0
	Jul	40
	Aug	28
	Sep	32
	Oct	34
	Nov	10
	Dec	19
	Jan	17
	Feb	23
	Mar	21
2023-24	Apr	28
	May	31
	Jun	20
	Jul	24



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	Aug	30
	Sep	24
	Oct	30
	Nov	19
	Dec	27
	Jan	12
	Feb	32
	Mar	19
2024-25	Apr	34
	May	30
	Jun	43
	Jul	41
	Aug	39
	Sep	31

To provide the rest of the information a manual trawl through each record would be required. There are more than 738 in total. It would take at least 10 minutes to look through each record. This would take over the 18-hour time limit to complete so would therefore be exempt. The following Section 12 exemption is applied:

Section 12 – Excess Cost

The exemption applicable to the information you have requested for this question can be found at Section 12(1) of the Act and this refusal notice is issued under Section 17.

Section 12(1) “does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.”

In the case of a police force, the appropriate limit is set at £450, which is calculated at £25 per hour (i.e. 18 hours). Gwent Police would have to conduct a manual search to find and extract the information for this question. This would take more than 18 hours of staff time therefore we are unable to answer this question and the exemption is engaged.

We appreciate that you may be disappointed on this occasion that we are unable to provide the requested information. However, under Section 16 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, we have a duty to assist you in relation to refining your request, where we may be able to answer some of your questions.

Please note, every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete.



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Freedom of Information Act is a public disclosure regime, not a private regime. Any information disclosed under the Act is thereafter deemed to be in the public domain, and therefore freely available to the public and will be published on the Gwent Police website.

If, upon receiving a response to a freedom of information request, you are unhappy with the outcome, you may request an internal review. **This should be made within 40 working days of the initial response.**

Please direct any internal review requests to FOI@gwent.police.uk

You have the right to request an appeal from the Information Commissioners Office about your Freedom of Information request, if you are dissatisfied with your internal review response.

ICO Contact Details:

The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF

Tel: 0303 123 1113

Web: www.ico.org.uk

Thank you for your interest in Gwent Police.