



Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals

NHS Foundation Trust

Information Governance Department

Suite 9

Buckingham Row

Brick Kiln Lane

Wigan

WN1 1XX

Email: foi@wwl.nhs.uk

Web: www.wwl.nhs.uk

Ref: FOI/2025/11310

Date Received: 19th December 2025

Response Due: 21st January 2026

Date: 20th January 2026

Dear Sir/Madam

With reference to your request for information received on 19th December 2025, I can confirm in accordance with Section 1 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 that we do hold the information you have requested. A response to each part of your request is provided below.

In your request you asked:

Please provide the following information for the period March 2023 - November 2025, within the geographical area covered by your Integrated Care Board.

Scope:

- **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:**
 - o **Children and young people**
 - o **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:

- **The number of individuals detained under Section 136 where A&E was recorded as the first place of safety.**

The Trust is unable to provide this data as it is not recorded centrally, if recorded it would be held within individual case notes. As case notes are for the care and treatment of patients, we do not request staff to interrogate them in order to collate the information required to respond to Freedom of Information requests.

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). Please see response to Q1

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.

Please see response to Q1

Cost and limitations:

If providing information for the full period would exceed the cost limit, please instead provide the information for the most recent period available, preferably from March 2024 onwards.

If any element of this request exceeds the information held, I would be grateful if you could provide the closest available data within these parameters, together with a brief explanation of any limitations.

If you are not entirely satisfied with this response, please do not hesitate to contact the Information Governance Department via the email address provided. If we do not hear from you within 40 days, we will assume that we have been able to accommodate your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Yours sincerely,



Interim Divisional Director of Operations

PLEASE NOTE:

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to: Information Governance Department, Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust, Suite 9, Buckingham Row, Brick Kiln Lane, Wigan, WN1 1XX.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision at:

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

Helpline number: 0303 123 111