



SUFFOLK CONSTABULARY

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

REQUEST NUMBER: FOI Request 004349-17

REQUEST DETAILS:

1. "How many people have police detained at a police station using section 136 powers - on a year by year basis for the last 5 years?"
2. How many people have police detained in total at a police station on a year by year basis for the last 5 years?
3. How many people detained under section 136 have been held at a police station for over three hours?
4. How many people detained under section 136 have been held at a police station for over five hours?
5. How many people detained under section 136 have been held at a police station for over ten hours?"

RESPONSE:

Suffolk Constabulary has considered your request for information and our response is below.

This response is correct as of 29 March 2017

1. The total number of persons detained at a police station under Section 136 Mental Health Act, was as follows:

Year	Total
2012	42
2013	34
2014	7
2015	6
2016	1
Total	90

2. The total number of persons detained in total, is as follows:

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
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Bury PIC	4712	4477	4334	4081	3640
Gt Yarmouth PIC	2631	2315	2160	1954	1537
Martlesham PIC	6485	5745	5646	5289	4692
Total	13828	12537	12140	11324	9869

3. The number of persons detained under Section 136 for over 3 hours, is provided in the table below.
4. The number of persons detained under section 136 for over 5 hours is provided in the table below.
5. The number of persons detained for over ten hours under section 136, is provided in the table below.

Year	U3hrs	3-5hrs	5-10hrs	10+hrs	Total
2012	11	9	11	11	42
2013	6	10	9	9	34
2014	1	2	2	2	7
2015	1	0	3	2	6
2016	0	0	0	1	1
Total	19	21	25	25	90

The Mental Health Codes of Practice published in 2015 (replacing those published in 2008) cover Police Powers and Places of Safety (section 16). It states:

16.38 A police station should not be used as a place of safety except in exceptional circumstances, for example it may be necessary to do so because the person's behaviour would pose an unmanageably high risk to other patients, staff or other users if the person were to be detained in a healthcare setting. A police station should not be used as the automatic second choice if there is no local health based place of safety immediately available.

The police have worked very closely with the Mental Health Trust to agree a section 136 multi-agency protocol and to actively reduce the numbers of people detained under section 136 of the Mental Health Act. This is demonstrated by the reduction of s.136 detentions taken into a police custody setting over the years.