

FOI 0501_2025 Response

*****Clarification: Under the Mental Health Act 1983 a person detained under Section 136 has to be taken to a Place of Safety. The Act specifies a list of places this could be, for example a private home which is suitable or a mental hospital. It used to include a police station but that has in most cases been excluded.**

Later amendments to the Act have specified a Health Based Place of Safety as the first choice. That is a premises operated by a Mental Health Service which is suitable for the assessment of someone thought to be mentally ill or in crisis. This does not include an Emergency Room/Accident and Emergency Department.

FOI request is to ask for each of the two financial years 2018/19 and 2023/24:

- 1. Did your trust operate any HBPOS?**

Yes, at the Oleaster Centre.

- 2. If yes, how many HBPOS were there in your Trust area?:**

One Place of Safety Centre with three space available.

- 3. During which days and hours was the HBPOS open or available to receive detainees. It might for example be generally closed but open on request between certain hours.**

It is a 24 hours access.

- 4. What was the maximum capacity of each HBPOS to receive detained persons?.**

Maximum capacity is 3 at a given time.

- 5. If there has been a change in the number of HBPOS between the two years and if so is it possible to say why this has happened? It might for example be from changes in funding or it might be that alternative arrangements have been made.**

Increase capacity from 2 to 3 due to increase in number of Section 136. Funding was agreed by ICB.