

Reference:	FOI.16403.25
Subject:	Patients sectioned under the Mental Health Act (MHA)
Date of Request:	20 January 2025

Requested:

1. The number of 18-25 year olds sectioned under the Mental Health Act. I would like this data quarterly, going back to the start of 2019.

Clarification

Where a person is discharged and re-admitted within the same quarter please include the number of persons not episodes.

Please include short term detaining powers Section 136 separately

Response:

1. Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) does not hold the information exactly as requested. Within the table below, the UHB provides the information as it is held for the number of 18-25 year olds sectioned under the MHA and detained under section 5 and section 136 holding powers, during the time period requested.

It should be noted that the data provided may include individuals who have been sectioned under the MHA more than once outside of the quarter period but still form part of the same episode of detention. For example:

- Patient A who is subject to detainment under Section 2 of the MHA during quarter 1, will be counted as one.
- Patient A may continue to be detained during quarter 2 by being transferred onto Section 3 under the MHA. This will also be counted as a further one.
- However, should Patient A be placed on Section 3 during the same quarter as the Section 2, this will only be counted as one individual.

Section 5(4) and Section 5(2) are short term detentions and are implemented only for the purposes of detaining a person whilst an MHA assessment is arranged. The outcome of the assessment may lead to an MHA detention or not; therefore, the number of individuals under this part of the Act are provided separately.

Section 136 powers enable the Police to remove a person from anywhere other than their residence and take them to a place of safety for an MHA assessment. The detention period is generally up to 24 hours and usually, these persons are brought to hospital for the assessment. The number of individuals detained under Section 136 powers are provided separately, as requested.

Quarter Period	Individuals detained under the MHA	Individuals placed under Section 5 holding powers	Individuals placed under Section 136
Jan – March 2019	10	*	19
April – June 2019	20	5	16
July – Sept 2019	12	*	16

Oct – Dec 2019	10	5	16
Jan – March 2020	10	*	17
April – June 2020	9	*	12
July – Sept 2020	10	5	12
Oct – Dec 2020	11	5	14
Jan – March 2021	7	*	10
April – June 2021	12	*	19
July – Sept 2021	8	*	8
Oct – Dec -2021	8	*	15
Jan – March 2022	10	5	8
April – June 2022	13	*	14
July – Sept 2022	9	*	11
Oct – Dec 2022	12	*	11
Jan – March 2023	15	*	10
April – June 2023	13	*	16
July -Sept 2023	20	*	16
Oct – Dec 2023	8	*	11
Jan – March 2024	20	11	15
April – June 2024	8	0	12
July – Sept 2024	9	*	*
Oct – Dec 2024	10	7	*

Where the figures in the table have been replaced with an asterisk (*), the UHB is unable to provide you with the exact number of patients due to the low numbers of cases (less than 5), as there is a potential risk of identifying individuals if this was disclosed. The UHB is therefore withholding this detail under Section 40(2) of the FoIA. This information is protected by the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA)/UK General Data Protection Regulations, as its disclosure would constitute unfair and unlawful processing and would be contrary to the principles and articles of the UK GDPR. This exemption is absolute and therefore, there is no requirement to apply the public interest test.

In reaching this decision, the DPA and UK GDPR define personal data as data that relates to a living individual who can be identified solely from that data or from that data and other information, which is in the possession of the data controller.