

Sent via email

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Dear [REDACTED]

Request for Information

I write further to your request FOI ID 48137 under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding: -

Health Based Place of Safety

Your request is set out below:

For each of the two financial years 2018/19 and 2023/24:

1. Did your trust operate any HBPoS?

Yes, for both 2018/19 and 2023/24.

2. If yes, how many HBPoS were there in your Trust area?

The Trust operated a total of five HBPoS beds across three locations:

Canterbury – 2 suites

Maidstone – 2 suites

Dartford – 1 suite

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.

All HBPoS facilities were available 24/7

4. What was the maximum capacity of each HBPoS to receive detained persons?

The total maximum capacity was 5 detained persons at any given time, distributed as follows:

Canterbury – 2 persons

Maidstone – 2 persons

Dartford – 1 person

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.

No, there has been no change in the number of HBPoS within the Trust area between 2018/19 and 2023/24.

Contextual Information:

The decline in the proportion of persons detained under Section 136 being taken to a HBPOS, as observed in police data, is noted. However, this change is attributed to the change in practice in relation to working with the Police and implementation of the 836 Call Line service, which provides professional advice to police regarding possible Section 136 detentions. This service has contributed to a reduction in the number of patients being detained under Section 136.

It is important to clarify that while fewer patients are being detained under Section 136, the number of individuals accessing A&E has not necessarily increased as a direct result of this change. Individuals may present at A&E due to injuries, physical health concerns, or a lack of available HBPOS suites. Therefore, when analysing trends, it is recommended to compare numerical data rather than percentages, as percentages alone may not fully represent the operational impact of these changes.

I confirm that the information above completes your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I am also pleased to confirm that no charge will be made for this request.

If you have any questions or concerns or are unhappy with the response provided or the service you have received you can write to the Head of Information Governance at the address on top of this letter. If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision.

Yours Sincerely

On Behalf of
The Information Governance Department