

The demands placed on officers relating to mental health.

1. Within the last month (October 2013), how many individuals detained under Section 136 of the Mental Health Act have been taken to a custody facility as a place of safety for assessment in your force? (Please provide an estimate if you don't have actual figures, but please state whether estimate or actual)
 - a) Of those detained how many S136 detentions have been taken to a health based place of safety.
 - b) Is the trend in S136 detentions going up, going down or remaining the same and can you provide the reasons behind any direction of travel.
 - c) How many people who have been detained for Criminal Offences have been subject of a formal Mental Health assessment whilst in custody?
 - d) What proportion of usage of custody suites is for the purpose of detaining those with mental health issues?

In essence how many cells are being used, whether a set amount of cells are put aside or what proportion of prisoners over the month have been S136 detentions.

- e) Have you experienced difficulties in securing timely support from mental health professionals to deal with a person with mental ill-health in custody in the last 12 months?

(Yes /No. If Yes, how often and what are the reasons for this?)

- f) Does your force have a partnership agreement with the local NHS covering mental health provision that diverts a mentally ill person from the custody suite? (Yes / No)

g) What actions do you believe should be taken to improve any problems that you are experiencing in your force around S136 detentions and dealing with those in police detention who are suffering from mental ill-health conditions? (Please list the top 3-5 things that you think will help)

h) Which agencies do you believe your force needs to work with more effectively to improve how those suffering with mental ill-health are dealt with?

i) Does your force provide the following:

(Please provide Yes /No responses as a minimum, and if you can, please expand on your answer – e.g. with regard to training if you feel it is inadequate then it would be helpful if you could find time to explain why.)

- a) Mental Ill-health & learning disability awareness training? (Yes/No) If 'yes', how is this delivered (e.g. formal learning event, via NCALT, or in partnership with MH professionals)
- b) Sufficient numbers of dedicated mental health liaison officers (Yes/No)
- c) Access to sufficient numbers of available mental health professionals to promptly assess individuals in custody (Yes/No)
- d) Sufficient interaction with Health Boards, and other representatives (Yes/No)
- e) Adequate partnerships with relevant NHS trusts & care providers (Yes/No) – Primary Care Trusts no longer exist following Government Health reforms)
- f) Is your force currently piloting or operating a 'Mental Health Street Triage' scheme. If yes do you feel that this is having a positive impact upon how the police are responding to incidents involving mental ill-health?
- g) Is your force doing anything that is a particularly positive development around dealing with mental ill-health if yes how and why it works.
- h) Does your force regularly experience difficulties in getting health based places of safety to accept S136 detentions and, if so, what the main reasons for this.