



Freedom of Information request ref 01/FOI/25/3675
We received your request on the 08/09/2025.

Request

You asked us:

Good afternoon,

I'm getting in touch regarding Good afternoon,

I'm getting in touch regarding British Transport Police officers exercising powers under s297 (place of safety) of the Mental Health (Scotland) Act 2003

Can you please confirm the number of such mental health-related incidents where these powers have been used across Scotland over the past five years, between January 2020 and September this year

If you could list the number of these incidents by year, it would be much appreciated

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We have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)

Our response:

Please note:

- 2019- 2023 will include periods of time when rail passenger numbers were low, or recovering, from the results of COVID19 lockdowns (no unnecessary travel).
- We are unable to provide data for September at this time.

The below table provides data for the number of s297 detentions made by BTP between January 2020 & August 2025, broken down by month and calendar year:

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Month	Calendar Year					
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025 YTD
January	8	5	5	6	3	5
February	6	2	6	3	3	3
March	9	3	9	5	4	4
April	9	4	4	10	3	5
May	12	1	9	8	2	7
June	7	7	6	5	6	12
July	2	11	5	10	2	8
August	8	12	8	4	4	9
September	9	6	6	6	5	-
October	8	8	6	4	10	-
November	10	4	6	5	2	-
December	9	2	1	4	7	-
Calendar year total	97	65	71	70	51	53