



Ref: FOIA Reference 2023/24-598

Date: 11th December 2023

Email foi@uhm.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 6th December 2023 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding Unlicensed medication

As of 1st November 2014 University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust (UHM) manages two hospital sites – Royal Stoke University Hospital, and County Hospital (Stafford). Therefore the response below is for the two sites combined from that date where appropriate.

Q1 What is the total value of spend by your NHS Trust on unlicensed medication (i.e. Special Order, Drug Tariff Special Order, Part VIIIID Drug Tariff Special Order) that have a BNF liquid formulation (e.g. liquid, solution, suspension)? Please provide this information on a volume and value basis for the following years (*please fill in the tables below*).

Note: Value of spend to mean either net ingredient cost or actual cost. Please state which you have used below. Actual cost would be the total cost to NHS commissioners whereas NIC is the cost at list price excluding VAT.

Total value:

Type	Total spend / cost on liquid unlicensed products procured		
	Apr-20 to Mar-21	Apr-21 to Mar-22	Apr-22 to Mar-23
Special Order			
Drug Tariff Special Order			
Part VIIIID Drug Tariff Special Order			
Other Special			

Total volume:

Type	Total volume of liquid unlicensed products procured		
	Apr-20 to Mar-21	Apr-21 to Mar-22	Apr-20 to Mar-21

Special Order			
Drug Tariff Special Order			
Part VIID Drug Tariff Special Order			
Other Special			

A1 I can neither confirm nor deny whether the information you have requested is held by the Trust in its entirety. This is because the information requested in this question is not held centrally,. In order to confirm whether this information is held we would therefore have to manually quantify the above from the pharmacy system within the Trust and extract the information where it is present. We therefore estimate that complying with your request is exempt under section 12 of the FOI Act: *cost of compliance is excessive*. The section 12 exemption applies when it is estimated a request will take in excess of 18 hours to complete. We estimate that manually accessing and reviewing all records and then extracting relevant information would take longer than the 18 hours allowed for. In addition to the section 12 exemption the Trust is also applying section 14 (1) exemption: *oppressive burden on the authority*

Q2 Do you outsource the manufacturing of liquid unlicensed products?

A2 Yes

Q3 If no to question 3 (use of outsourcing providers), what proportion of the products that you manufacture in-house are aseptically compounded rather than terminally sterilised?

A3 We do not manufacture non sterile products at UHNM

Q4 If yes to question 3 (use of outsourcing providers), what is the total value of spend by provider? Please provide this information for the following years (please fill in the tables below).

Note: If more than 10 providers are used, please only detail spend with the top 10.

Outsourcing provider (fill in empty rows with provider name, add rows if required)	Total value of liquid specials procured from each provider		
	Apr-20 to Mar-21	Apr-21 to Mar-22	Apr-20 to Mar-21

A4 I can neither confirm nor deny whether the information you have requested is held by the Trust in its entirety. This is because the information requested in this question is not held centrally,. In order to confirm whether this information is held we would therefore have to manually quantify the above from the pharmacy system within the Trust and extract the information where it is present. We therefore estimate that complying with your request is exempt under

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*Please note that any individuals identified do not give consent for their personal data to be processed for the purposes of direct marketing.

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An anonymised copy of this request can be found on the Trust's disclosure log, please note that all requests can be found at the following link: <http://www.uhnm.nhs.uk/aboutus/Statutory-Policies-and-Procedures/Pages/Freedom-of-Information-Disclosure-Log.aspx>

This letter confirms the completion of this request. A log of this request and a copy of this letter will be held by the Trust.

If you have any queries related to the response provided please in the first instance contact my office.

Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and request an assessment of the manner in which the Trust has managed your request.

The Information Commissioner may be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF or via www.ico.org.uk.

Yours,



University Hospitals
of North Midlands
NHS Trust

Rachel Montinaro
Data Security and Protection Manager - Records

