

21 October 2025

Hospital Drug Usage

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Specifically, I would like to request data on hospital drug usage within Northern Ireland, similar to the Secondary Care Medicines Data (SCMD) list published by NHS England.

Please could you provide the following information for your Health Board/hospital(s):

A list of medicines used within secondary care, including the total quantities dispensed or issued, for the most recent 12-month period available.

Where possible, please provide this information broken down by:

Medicine name (generic and/or brand)

Strength and formulation

Total quantity used/dispensed

Associated costs (if available)

Given the number of pharma companies and confidential pricing agreements BHSC have, this request would take substantially more than 18 hours to process this level of data. This would exceed the costs limit specified in the FOI act.

We estimate that compliance with this element of the request for information would exceed the appropriate costs limit. Under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information 2000, the limit has been specified as £450 and represents the estimated cost of one or more persons spending 18 hours in determining whether we hold the information, locating, retrieving and extracting this information.