

26 March 2026

Secondary Care Medicines Usage

I would like to submit a request under the FOIA to acquire data regarding hospital medicines usage/issuance, similar to the Scottish and English SCMD data:

- **Monthly from Jan 2019**
- **HB**
- **issue date**
- **location and location code**
- **product (ideally Virtual Medicinal Products and VMP codes, aligned to Dm+d VMPs. Otherwise use available product attributes, descriptions, codes)**
- **volume dispensed and product volume measure (eg. mls, grams. If packs and/or units, please provide item pack and unit size in measure)**

An extract from a secondary care stock control system would work.

BHSCT holds a wide range of confidential pricing and commercial agreements with pharmaceutical suppliers. Producing the level of detailed activity data requested would require extensive manual review of a large dataset to ensure that no commercially sensitive information is released, whether explicitly or through the level of detail provided. This review process would substantially increase the time required to prepare the information.

We estimate that fulfilling this part of the request would exceed the FOIA appropriate cost limit. Under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the limit is £450, representing 18 hours of staff time to determine whether the information is held and to locate, retrieve and extract it. As the work involved would exceed this limit, the Trust is not obliged to comply with this element of the request.

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