

Date: 29/02/2024  
Your Ref:  
Our Ref: 8381

Enquiries to : Richard Mutch  
Extension: 35687  
Direct Line: 0131 465 5687  
[foi@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:foi@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk)  
[richard.mutch@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:richard.mutch@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk)

Dear

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – OXYCODONE

I write in response to your request for information in relation to oxycodone prescribing within NHS Lothian

Question:

1. The number of patients prescribed oxycodone in the NHS Lothian area in the last year.

Answer:

With the data sources available at this time, we can confirm 18,225 patients have been prescribed oxycodone in an NHS Lothian secondary care environment between February 2023 and January 2024, however, there are areas where prescribing data is not held electronically so this figure will not be a complete picture. Please note, in most cases these will not be acute prescriptions and not regular prescriptions.

Number of patients with an electronic record of prescribed Oxycodone in primary care between February 2023 to December 2023: 5,505 (99.95% CHI compliance). Note however that we cannot link these figures to those obtained in secondary care due to the incompleteness of patient data, so we risk counting the same patients multiple times.

Question:

2. The number of patients who have been prescribed oxycodone for longer than six months.
3. The number of patients who have been prescribed oxycodone for longer than three months.
4. The number of patients treated for oxycodone overdoses in the last five years, broken down by year

Answer:

We do not collect this information and would need to review individual patient clinical records to establish this information. Under the Freedom of Information Act NHS Lothian is not required to create new records to enable it to respond to your enquiry. This information is not collated or held in aggregate form and it would be necessary to review all case files relating to patients over the period you have requested to assemble the information you seek. Even if NHS Lothian did this – and there would be significant cost implications in doing so – it would

be unable to respond in full to your request. The information requested is therefore exempt under section 12.1 – Cost.

I hope the information provided helps with your request.

If you are unhappy with our response to your request, you do have the right to request us to review it. Your request should be made within 40 working days of receipt of this letter, and we will reply within 20 working days of receipt. If our decision is unchanged following a review and you remain dissatisfied with this, you then have the right to make a formal complaint to the Scottish Information Commissioner within 6 months of receipt of our review response. You can do this by using the Scottish Information Commissioner's Office online appeals service at [www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal). If you remain dissatisfied with the Commissioner's response you then have the option to appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law.

If you require a review of our decision to be carried out, please write to the FOI Reviewer at the email address at the head of this letter. The review will be undertaken by a Reviewer who was not involved in the original decision-making process.

FOI responses (subject to redaction of personal information) may appear on NHS Lothian's Freedom of Information website at: <https://org.nhslothian.scot/FOI/Pages/default.aspx>

Yours sincerely

**ALISON MACDONALD**  
**Executive Director, Nursing, Midwifery and AHPs**  
Cc: Chief Executive