

Freedom of Information Request

Ref: 22-111

14 March 2022

By Email

Dear Sir/Madam

Thank you for your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Trust's response is as follows:

- We can confirm that we do hold the information you are requesting

How many prescriptions for sleeping pills did you give out in 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018 and 2017?

Could you please break this down by the name of the drug

How much did this cost in total each year?

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
CLOMETHIAZOLE	*	0	0	0	0
LOPRAZOLAM	*	0	*	0	0
MELATONIN	441	369	220	383	590
NITRAZEPAM	15	19	12	8	15
TEMAZEPAM	83	85	62	58	78
ZOLPIDEM	42	43	39	30	18
ZOPICLONE	788	815	703	763	784
Total Prescriptions	1374	1331	1038	1242	1485
Total Cost	£10,726	£9,001	£8,980	£25,257	£29,674

Please note: Where the figures are between 1 and 5, this has been denoted by *. Due to the low numbers, we have considered that there is the potential for individuals to be identified from the information provided, when considered with other information that may also be in the public domain. In our view disclosure of these low figures would breach one of the Data Protection Principles set out in Schedule 1 of the Data Protection Act, namely Principle 1. The Trust therefore finds that the Section 40(2) exemption contained within the Freedom of information Act 2000 is engaged. (Section 40 is the exemption for personal information).

If possible, could you please break down the age of patients that received the prescriptions, either exact ages or in age groups (eg xx number of prescriptions given

to 16-24 year olds)

The pharmacy service does not hold this information as the items are issued at a patient level and this is against the MRN (Movement Reference Number) or NHS number and the patient age is not pulled through as part of the dispensing record.*

*Please note, the Trust does not hold the data in a format that would enable us to fully respond to your request to the level of detail required and a manual trawl for this information would significantly exceed the 18 hours limit set down by the FOI as the reasonable limit. Section 12 of the FOIA provides that we are not obliged to spend in excess of 18 hours in any sixty-day period locating, retrieving and identifying information in order to deal with a request for information and therefore we are withholding this information at this time.

This concludes our response. We trust that you find this helpful, but please do not hesitate to contact us directly if we can be of any further assistance.

If, after that, you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to:

Director of Corporate Governance
University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust
Trust Headquarters
Marlborough Street
Bristol
BS1 3NU

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF

Publication

Please note that this letter and the information included/attached will be published on our website as part of the Trust's Freedom of Information Publication Log. This is because information disclosed in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act is disclosed to the public, not just to the individual making the request. We will remove any personal information (such as your name, email and so on) from any information we make public to protect your personal information.

To view the Freedom of Information Act in full please click [here](#).

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Team

University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust