

Freedom of Information Request

Ref: 25-327

19 May 2025

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 hold some of the information you are requesting

This is an information request relating to NHS Trusts buying and supplying Paracetamol and ibuprofen.

Please include the following information for the financial years 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25:

- **The total number of individual patients to whom paracetamol and ibuprofen were prescribed by your Trust annually.**

We cannot provide this information as we do not have an electronic prescribing system.

- **The total amount spent by your Trust on supplying prescribed paracetamol and Ibuprofen in each of those financial years.**

Financial Year	Cost (£)	Cost (£)
	Paracetamol	Ibuprofen
2022/2023	165974.14	34624.33
2023/2024	194118.51	28876.81
2024/2025	220624.57	30071.72

Please note these costs also include intravenous product costs

- **If available, a breakdown of the form in which paracetamol was prescribed (e.g., tablets, capsules, liquid suspension, etc.) and associated costs for each form.**

We cannot provide this information as we do not have an electronic prescribing system.

- **What are the specific conditions which qualify a patient to be prescribed paracetamol**

or ibuprofen? Or what is your general policy for qualifying a prescription for paracetamol or ibuprofen?

We prescribe and supply paracetamol or ibuprofen if the patient takes this routinely. We initiate for short-term use in mild acute pain. At discharge we will prescribe and supply if there is a clinical need for ongoing analgesia for mild acute pain; or for regular use if the patient has insufficient supplies at home before the next repeat prescription.

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:

Data Protection Officer
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**