NHS Tayside has now considered your request dated 15 January 2019.

NHS Tayside wishes to advise you that there are exemptions applicable to the information requested. Please refer to the exemptions section of this correspondence.

Extract from Request

"Is it possible please to check how many people have died directly or indirectly by being prescribed the drug Amiodarone for Atrial Fibrillation (irregular heartbeat) during, say, the last 5 years?"

Response

NHS Tayside does not hold the information requested in an easily identifiable format.

Death files do not hold information regarding prescription drugs which the deceased may have been on before death, also, while the person may have been prescribed a drug, we could not guarantee they were taking the medication at the time of death.

Neither can we look for this prescribed drug in terms of being a contributing factor in a death. The death files record ‘cause of death’ and to generalised groups such as opioids, psychotropic drugs etc, not specific prescribed drugs. Such detail would most likely only come from Post Mortems (PM) and these details are not available within our held death records, in addition, not every death has a post mortem to provide a definitive answer.

To provide information concerning how many people who have died directly or indirectly by being prescribed the drug Amiodarone for Atrial Fibrillation (irregular heartbeat) could potentially include numbers of those on the medication, who were in a road traffic accidents, or suffered a fatal fall etc, which had no reflection of the prescribed drug or the condition that it is used to treat and that the information could easily be misinterpreted.


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Document Ref.</th>
<th>FOISA Exemption Applied</th>
<th>Justification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IGTFOISA5806</td>
<td>Section 17 – Information not held</td>
<td>NHS Tayside does not hold the information in the format requested.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Under section 20 (1) of the Act, if you are dissatisfied with the way NHS Tayside has dealt with your request, you have a right to request a review of our actions and decisions in relation to your request, and you have a right to appeal to the Scottish Information Commission.

A request for an internal review must be made in writing no later than forty working days from receipt of this response and addressed to:

Tayside NHS Board Secretary  
Tayside NHS Board Headquarters  
Ninewells Hospital & Medical School  
Dundee  
DD1 9SY

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Scottish Information Commissioner for a decision. The Scottish Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Scottish Information Commissioner  
Kinburn Castle  
Doubledykes Road  
St Andrews  
Fife  
KY16 9DS

Or via the online appeal service: [www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal)

If you have any queries about this correspondence, please contact:

Information Governance Team  
Maryfield House  
30 Mains Loan  
Dundee  
DD4 7BT

Telephone - 01382 424413  
E-mail: informationgovernance.tayside@nhs.net

Information Governance  
NHS Tayside, 21 January 2019