NHS Tayside has now considered your request dated 04 April 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**

“I want to know how many patients have been prescribed opioids in your health board since 2012. I would like this broken down into individual years please.

I want to know how many patients have died as a result of opioid misuse/overdose – or where misuse or overdose has been a contributing factor – for the same years.

I want to know how many patients have died from drug misuse/overdose generally for the same years.

I want to know what types of opioids doctors/health professionals are able to prescribe.

I want to know what conditions they can be prescribed for.”

**Response**

1. **Number of patients prescribed opioids in NHS Tayside since 2012:**
   - 2018 – 41,471
   - 2017 – 41,741
   - 2016 – 42,215
   - 2015 – 41,969
   - 2014 – 41,595
   - 2013 – 40,721
   - 2012 – 39,510

   **Notes:** Data extracted for prescriptions from GP’s, Community Pharmacists & Out Patient clinics that have been dispensed in the community.

   Does not include Hospital prescribing as patient data is not reliably recorded in the pharmacy system.

2. **Drug Deaths are published national statistics by the National Records of Scotland. This data is broken down by Local Authority Area, Health Board and Drug Type (including Opioids as a subtype).** It is available on their website: [https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/vital-events/deaths/drug-related-deaths-in-scotland/2017/list-of-tables-and-figures](https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/vital-events/deaths/drug-related-deaths-in-scotland/2017/list-of-tables-and-figures). Classification of a drug death is made on the basis of a range of information and according to a definition which is also available on their website. In Tayside if someone has died of a suspected drug death this will be passed to the Tayside Drug Deaths
Review group who gather information on the person along with post mortem reports and toxicology analysis. A review is carried out and a classification is applied to the death and if deemed a drug death it will be entered onto the national drug deaths database. Data from 2018 will be published in July 2019. And 2019 data will be published in July 2020.

3. As mentioned in Q2, this information is published by National Records of Scotland and link has been provided.

4. Section 4 (alternatively section 04.07.02 of the Tayside Area Formulary) of the British National Formulary lists the opioid analgesics licensed for use.

5. The marketing authorisation for a product describes the licensed indications for which the product can be prescribed. As a therapeutic group, opioids may be prescribed for multiple indications if the prescriber considers them appropriate for use. These include but are not limited to; moderate to severe pain, premedication, intra-operative analgesia and anaesthesia, treatment of opioid dependence, acute diarrhoea, cough, acute pulmonary oedema, myocardial infarction or shortness of breath.


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Document Ref.</th>
<th>FOISA Exemption Applied</th>
<th>Justification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IGTFOISA6169</td>
<td>Section 17 – Information not held (Q1)</td>
<td>• Hospital prescribing patient data is not reliably recorded in the pharmacy system and has not been provided.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Section 27 – Information for future Publication (Q2)</td>
<td>• The most recent drug deaths are intended for future publication on the National Records of Scotland website in July 2019.</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

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
6 May 2019