

3rd March 2020

BY EMAIL

Our Ref: FOI 1185

Dear 

Your request for information was received on 5th February 2020 and was dealt with under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Please be advised that the Business Services Organisation (BSO) has now completed its search for the information you requested with regards to the number of patients who have been prescribed Esketamine in Northern Ireland since it was officially licensed for use in the UK (from the dates of 19 December 2019 - 4th February 2020).

Please find this information below:

The Family Practitioner Services (FPS) within the HSC Business Services Organisation is responsible for the pharmacy payment which provide remuneration for the cost of drugs prescribed and dispensed in primary care.

The FPS has advised that prescribing data for the date ranges specified in your query is not yet available.

In addition to this we have received additional information below from the Health and Social Care Board (HSCB). In Northern Ireland there is a managed entry process for all new drugs, available at:

<http://niformulary.hscni.net/ManagedEntry/Pages/default.aspx>

The HSCB are awaiting the Final Appraisal Determination document from the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE). Until this is received, we expect that esketamine is not routinely prescribed in either primary or secondary care in Northern Ireland. NICE has not confirmed what date the final guidance will be published.

BSO have no access to prescribing data in secondary care so we cannot say if hospitals are using esketamine.



I hope that the information provided assists you. If you are dissatisfied in any way with the handling of your request, you have the right to request a review. You should do this as soon as possible or in any case within two months of the date of issue of this letter.

In the event that you require a review to be undertaken, you can do so by writing to

Information Governance Manager,
2 Franklin Street,
Belfast,
BT2 8DQ


If, following an internal review, carried out by an independent decision making panel, you remain dissatisfied in any way with the handling of the request, you may make a complaint under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act, to the Information Commissioner's Office and ask that they investigate whether the BSO has complied with the terms of the Freedom of Information Act.

You can contact Information Commissioner at:

Website: www.ico.org.uk
Phone: 0303 123 1113
Email: casework@ico.org.uk
Post: Information Commissioner's Office
3rd Floor, 14 Cromac Place
Belfast
BT7 2JB

In most circumstances the Information Commissioner will not investigate a complaint unless an internal review procedure has been carried out. However the Commissioner has the option to investigate the matter at his discretion.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Liam McIvor', written over the 'Yours Sincerely,' text.

Liam McIvor
Chief Executive