

You can contact Information Commissioner at:

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Phone: 0303 123 1113
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Post: Information Commissioner's Office
3rd Floor, 14 Cromac Place
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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 cursive script that reads "Karen Bailey".

Karen Bailey
Chief Executive

Enc

Unlicensed medicines dispensed 2015-2022

Scan_Year	Items	Cost
2015	55,335	£6,701,859
2016	57,565	£7,187,802
2017	51,077	£6,268,003
2018	46,129	£5,830,839
2019	47,948	£6,511,659
2020	36,113	£6,131,345
2021	26,255	£5,838,293
2022	24,571	£5,977,557

Notes

This table includes information on the number of prescription items described as unlicensed medicinal products for human use (commonly described as 'specials'). Includes items which have been imported.

This information has been sourced from the Family Practitioner Services within the HSC Business Services Organisation.

The information comes from the Family Practitioner Services Pharmacy Payment System. All information is for prescriptions prescribed in Primary care and dispensed by a community pharmacist or dispensing doctor. Data on secondary care prescribing and private prescriptions are not held by the Business Services Organisation. If a patient does not take a prescription to a dispenser and get it provided to them, then the information will not be included in the dataset.

A prescription item is a single supply of a medicine, dressing or appliance written on a prescription form. If a prescription form includes three medicines it is counted as three prescription items. Prescription item figures do not provide any indication of the length of treatment or quantity of medicine prescribed.

BSO dispensing data does not capture the indication for which the drug has been prescribed/dispensed.

If statistics are to be used for comparative purposes to other parts of the UK, differences in prescription dispensing and processing in Northern Ireland compared to other UK regions should be noted. For example, in Northern Ireland there is no outpatient dispensing.