

**Chief Executive**  
2 Franklin Street  
BELFAST  
BT2 8DQ

Tel: 028 9536 3863  
Email: FOI.BSO@hscni.net

**19<sup>th</sup> July 2024**

**BY EMAIL**  
[REDACTED]

**Our Ref: FOI 2221**

Dear [REDACTED]

Your request for information was received on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2024 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 below:

Firstly, please accept my apologies for the delay in providing a response.

**Is it possible for clarity to confirm for 2 products, Vensir XL Capsules and Mezolar, or obtain copies of the tender awards.**

**DOH have indicated that for Vensir that contracts required specific levels of primary care dispensing, and that for Mezolar awards were for both primary and secondary care.**

Please find a response as below and attached:

In relation to your first question, please find attached a list (Annex 1) of Vensir XL Capsules and Mezolar products that have been tendered for and awarded by BSO PaLS for Secondary Care use only.

It should be noted that these contracts are not for use within primary care and BSO PaLS do not hold the information on how community pharmacies (i.e. Primary Care) source these products for dispensing.



I should advise you that we would not consider it appropriate for the BSO to comment on the response you have received from DOH.

However, in relation to Mezolar we can confirm that the contracts BSO PaLS award on behalf of Secondary Care are not for use within Primary Care. We do not hold the information on how these products are sourced for Primary Care dispensing.

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, as the BSO, along with all other public authorities are not obliged to accept internal review requests after this period has lapsed.

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](http://www.ico.org.uk)  
**Phone:** 0303 123 1113  
**Email:** [casework@ico.org.uk](mailto: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,



**Karen Bailey**

Chief Executive

| NAME                         | STRENGTH            | PACK SIZE | MARKETING<br>AUTHORISATION HOLDER<br>(BRAND NAME) | CONTRACT                                                                                   | CONTRACTOR | CONTRACT EXPIRY |
|------------------------------|---------------------|-----------|---------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|-----------------|
| FENTANYL TRANSDERMAL PATCHES | 100MICROGRAMS/HOUR  | 5 PATCH   | SANDOZ LTD (MEZOLAR<br>MATRIX)                    | GENERIC, BRANDED<br>GENERIC &<br>PROPRIETARY<br>MEDICINAL PRODUCTS -<br>GROUP 13 [4844244] | SANDOZ LTD | 31/03/2026      |
| FENTANYL TRANSDERMAL PATCHES | 12MICROGRAMS/HOUR   | 5 PATCH   | SANDOZ LTD (MEZOLAR<br>MATRIX)                    | GENERIC, BRANDED<br>GENERIC &<br>PROPRIETARY<br>MEDICINAL PRODUCTS -<br>GROUP 13 [4844244] | SANDOZ LTD | 31/03/2026      |
| FENTANYL TRANSDERMAL PATCHES | 25MICROGRAMS/HOUR   | 5 PATCH   | SANDOZ LTD (MEZOLAR<br>MATRIX)                    | GENERIC, BRANDED<br>GENERIC &<br>PROPRIETARY<br>MEDICINAL PRODUCTS -<br>GROUP 13 [4844244] | SANDOZ LTD | 31/03/2026      |
| FENTANYL TRANSDERMAL PATCHES | 37.5MICROGRAMS/HOUR | 5 PATCH   | SANDOZ LTD (MEZOLAR<br>MATRIX)                    | GENERIC, BRANDED<br>GENERIC &<br>PROPRIETARY<br>MEDICINAL PRODUCTS -<br>GROUP 13 [4844244] | SANDOZ LTD | 31/03/2026      |
| FENTANYL TRANSDERMAL PATCHES | 50MICROGRAMS/HOUR   | 5 PATCH   | SANDOZ LTD (MEZOLAR<br>MATRIX)                    | GENERIC, BRANDED<br>GENERIC &<br>PROPRIETARY<br>MEDICINAL PRODUCTS -<br>GROUP 13 [4844244] | SANDOZ LTD | 31/03/2026      |
| FENTANYL TRANSDERMAL PATCHES | 75MICROGRAMS/HOUR   | 5 PATCH   | SANDOZ LTD (MEZOLAR<br>MATRIX)                    | GENERIC, BRANDED<br>GENERIC &<br>PROPRIETARY<br>MEDICINAL PRODUCTS -<br>GROUP 13 [4844244] | SANDOZ LTD | 31/03/2026      |

| NAME                                  | STRENGTH | PACK SIZE  | MARKETING<br>AUTHORISATION HOLDER<br>(BRAND NAME) | CONTRACT                                                                                   | CONTRACTOR                         | CONTRACT EXPIRY |
|---------------------------------------|----------|------------|---------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| VENLAFAXINE MODIFIED-RELEASE CAPSULES | 75MG     | 28 CAPSULE | MORNINGSIDE<br>HEALTHCARE LIMITED<br>(VENSIR XL)  | GENERIC, BRANDED<br>GENERIC &<br>PROPRIETARY<br>MEDICINAL PRODUCTS -<br>GROUP 7 [2409529]  | MORNINGSIDE<br>PHARMACEUTICALS LTD | 30/09/2024      |
| VENLAFAXINE MODIFIED-RELEASE CAPSULES | 150MG    | 28 CAPSULE | MORNINGSIDE<br>HEALTHCARE LTD<br>(VENSIR)         | GENERIC, BRANDED<br>GENERIC &<br>PROPRIETARY<br>MEDICINAL PRODUCTS -<br>GROUP 12 [4724006] | MORNINGSIDE<br>PHARMACEUTICALS LTD | 30/09/2025      |

[REDACTED]

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**From:** FOI BSO  
**Sent:** 02 August 2024 10:34  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FOI 2221 / 2207

Dear [REDACTED]

In relation to the above referenced FOI requests, I should advise you that BSO PaLS have provided us with a further update following our previous responses.

In our previous responses , we provided you with information on our current contracts, however upon further review of your initial request, PaLS have noted that they have made an oversight, for which we must apologise.

Your request specifically asked for “information held in relation to tender awards for medicinal products where contracts include any aspect of primary care use since 2010”. We have overlooked the detail regarding the time period, i.e. since 2010.

The current electronic systems used by PaLS show no record of any contracts held for these products between prior to 2015.

Prior to 01/01/2015 all records exist in hard copy only and are currently in outside storage. In order to explore the hard copy contracts we would need to extract these documents from storage which will take a considerable amount of time and will likely incur a cost.

As such, should you wish for PaLS to continue to explore for the earlier time period, I would ask you to please submit a new request.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

