

Chief Executive
2 Franklin Street
BELFAST
BT2 8DQ

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

15th July 2024

BY EMAIL

Our Ref: FOI 2239

Dear 

Your request for information was received on 1st July 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 in relation to Dispensed Volume.

Please find a response as follows and attached.

By reply, can you please confirm the quantity of each of the below medicines dispensed and claimed by pharmacies in Northern Ireland for each of the following months; January 2024, February 2024, March 2024, April 2024, May 2024, June 2024

Description	Item Size
BEVESPI AERO IHL 7.2/5MCG	1
FORXIGA TAB 10MG	28
FORXIGA TAB 5MG	28
TRIXEO EVOCAP 160/7.2/5.0	1

I should advise that the information attached has been provided for January 2024 to March 2024. Information relating to April 2024 to June 2024 will be available from 29th August 2024 following publication of the Accredited Official statistics release 'FPS General Pharmaceutical Services Statistics: To QE June 2024.'

GP Prescribing data is also published on a monthly basis at the following [link](#).

Providing Support to Health and Social Care



This data relates to prescriptions that are prescribed in Northern Ireland by a GP, nurse and any other non-medical prescribers attached to a GP Practice that are subsequently dispensed by a community pharmacist, dispensing doctor or appliance contractor and submitted to BSO for payment. While this differs from the data provided which covers all prescribing in Northern Ireland but only those dispensed by a community pharmacist, plus it is not validated to the same extent as our accredited official statistics, it would still give a good indication of figures in a timelier manner. It is important to note though that due to the differences highlighted, the GP Prescribing data will not reconcile with accredited statistics when published.

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

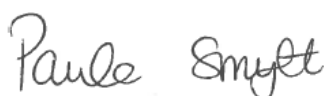
If, following an internal review, carried out by an independent decision-making panel, you remain dissatisfied in any way with the handling of the request, you may make a complaint under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act, to the Information Commissioner's Office and ask that they investigate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



Karen Bailey
Chief Executive

Quantities of requested products dispensed by pharmacies between January 2024 and March 2024

Product	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Total
Bevespi Aerosphere 7.2micrograms/dose / 5micrograms/dose pressurised inhaler	186	195	177	558
Forxiga 10mg tablets	6,841	6,279	6,785	19,905
Forxiga 5mg tablets	341	425	213	979
Trixeo Aerosphere 5micrograms/dose / 7.2micrograms/dose / 160micrograms/dose pressurised inhaler	1,865	1,883	2,082	5,830

FOI 2239: Quantities of Requested Products Dispensed by Pharmacies between January 2024 and March 2024

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. The data provided covers prescriptions that are prescribed in Northern Ireland by a GP, nurse or any other non-medical prescribers (for example: pharmacists, optometrists) that are subsequently dispensed by a pharmacy and submitted to BSO for payment. Prescriptions dispensed by appliance contractors and dispensing doctors have been excluded. 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. Post payment adjustments are included meaning that small differences in the data may be found, depending on when the data is extracted.

Information has been provided for the 4 requested products: Bevespi Aerosphere 7.2 micrograms/dose/5 micrograms/dose pressurised inhaler, Forxiga 10mg tablets, Forxiga 5mg tablets and Trixeo Aerosphere 5 micrograms/dose/7.2 micrograms/dose/160 micrograms/dose pressurised inhaler

The quantity of a product dispensed is measured in units depending on the formulation of the product. For example, where the formulation is a liquid, the quantity will be the number of millilitres or where the formulation is tablets or capsules the quantity will be the number of tablets or capsules. Quantity of inhalers has been provided as the number of devices.

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.

Information relating to April 2024 to June 2024 will be available from 29th August 2024 following publication of the Accredited Official statistics release 'FPS General Pharmaceutical Services Statistics: To QE June 2024.'

GP Prescribing data is also published on a monthly basis at the following link - <https://gpdatasets.hscni.net/> This data relates to prescriptions that are prescribed in Northern Ireland by a GP, nurse and any other non-medical prescribers attached to a GP Practice that are subsequently dispensed by a community pharmacist, dispensing doctor or appliance contractor and submitted to BSO for payment. While this differs from the data provided which covers all prescribing in Northern Ireland but only those dispensed by a community pharmacist, plus it is not validated to the same extent as our accredited official statistics, it would still give a good indication of figures in a more timely manner. It is important to note though that due to the differences highlighted, the GP Prescribing data will not reconcile with accredited statistics when published.