HSC Business Services Organisation

Chief Executive
2 Franklin Street
BELFAST
BT2 8DQ

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

May 15th 2018

BY EMAIL

[redacted]

Our Ref: FOI 871

Dear [redacted]

Your request for information was received on April 14th 2018 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 antidepressants.

The total number of patients prescribed antidepressants under the age of 17 for each of the financial years 2015/16, 2016/17 and 2017/18.

Table 1: Estimated number of unique patients under 18 years having been dispensed a defined anti-depressant medication by Financial Year / Age Group

	2015/16	2016/17	1st April 2017 to 31st January 2018
age 0-12	127	114	116
age 13-17	2,184	2,254	2,070
Total	**2,311**	**2,368**	**2,186**

The total number of units of antidepressants prescribed to patients aged 17 and under for each of these years

Table 2: Estimated units of anti-depressant medication dispensed by Financial Year and Age Group

	2015/16	2016/17	1st April 2017 to 31st January 2018
Tablets/Capsules (Individual tablets or capsules)			
age 0-12	12,514	11,150	12,724
age 13-17	334,283	354,180	294,623
Total	**346,797**	**365,330**	**307,347**
Liquid/Solution (Unit of measure in ml)			
age 0-12	13,920	12,140	15,258
age 13-17	121,733	132,204	90,708
Total	**135,653**	**144,344**	**105,966**

The chemical strength and presentations of the drug listed

Table 3: Estimated quantity of specified anti-depressant drug items dispensed to under 18 year olds by drug name and financial year

Drug Name	2015/16	2016/17	1st April 2017 to 31st January 2018
Tablets/Capsules (Individual tablets or capsules)			
Cipralex 10mg tablets	-	-	28
Cipralex 20mg tablets	28	-	-
Cipralex 5mg tablets	8	-	-
Cipramil 10mg tablets	110	-	-
Cipramil 20mg tablets	28	-	-
Cipramil 40mg tablets	7	-	-
Citalopram 10mg tablets	15,844	16,021	12,380
Citalopram 20mg tablets	12,359	9,738	7,861
Citalopram 40mg tablets	829	1,056	280
Escitalopram 10mg tablets	784	1,372	1,231
Escitalopram 20mg tablets	560	644	647
Escitalopram 5mg tablets	1,576	1,386	373
Faverin 100mg tablets	-	63	-
Faverin 50mg tablets	56	116	-
Fluoxetine 10mg capsules	-	1,551	8,236
Fluoxetine 20mg capsules	149,687	137,859	94,128
Fluoxetine 20mg dispersible tablets sugar free	1,192	599	322
Fluoxetine 30mg capsules	-	826	2,176
Fluoxetine 40mg capsules	-	304	1,476
Fluoxetine 60mg capsules	636	28	494
Fluvoxamine 100mg tablets	728	1,680	590
Fluvoxamine 50mg tablets	4,479	3,660	1,579
Lustral 100mg tablets	-	-	28
Lustral 50mg tablets	28	112	140
Paroxetine 10mg tablets	-	336	388
Paroxetine 20mg tablets	60	370	122
Paroxetine 30mg tablets	144	140	196
Prozac 20mg capsules	-	28	-
Seroxat 10mg tablets	-	-	42
Sertraline 100mg tablets	59,240	70,070	67,606
Sertraline 50mg tablets	98,414	117,371	107,024
Total	**346,797**	**365,330**	**307,347**
Liquid/Solution (Unit of measure in ml)			
Fluoxetine 20mg/5ml oral solution	135,343	127,302	76,376
Fluoxetine 20mg/5ml oral solution sugar free	-	16,380	27,570
Prozac 20mg/5ml liquid	310	362	70
Seroxat 20mg/10ml liquid	-	300	1,950
Total	**135,653**	**144,344**	**105,966**

I hope that this information assists you. 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,

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Liam McIvor
Chief Executive