

Reference:	FOI.13321.23
Subject:	Unlicensed medication
Date of Request:	6 December 2023

Requested:

Please provide the following information you have pertaining to NHS Trust unlicensed medicine expenditure.

1. What is the total value of spend by your NHS Trust on unlicensed medication (i.e. Special Order, Drug Tariff Special Order, Part VIID Drug Tariff Special Order) that have a BNF liquid formulation (e.g. liquid, solution, suspension)? Please provide this information on a volume and value basis for the following years (*please fill in the tables below*).

Note: Value of spend to mean either net ingredient cost or actual cost. Please state which you have used below. Actual cost would be the total cost to NHS commissioners whereas NIC is the cost at list price excluding VAT.

Type	Total <u>spend / cost</u> on liquid unlicensed products procured		
	Apr-20 to Mar-21	Apr-21 to Mar-22	Apr-22 to Mar-23
Special Order			
Drug Tariff Special Order			
Part VIID Drug Tariff Special Order			
Other Special			

Type	Total <u>volume</u> of liquid unlicensed products procured		
	Apr-20 to Mar-21	Apr-21 to Mar-22	Apr-20 to Mar-21
Special Order			
Drug Tariff Special Order			
Part VIID Drug Tariff Special Order			
Other Special			

2. Do you outsource the manufacturing of liquid unlicensed products?
3. If no to question 2 (use of outsourcing providers), what proportion of the products that you manufacture in-house are aseptically compounded rather than terminally sterilised?
4. If yes to question 2 (use of outsourcing providers), what is the total value of spend by provider? Please provide this information for the following years (*please fill in the tables below*).

Note: If more than 10 providers are used, please only detail spend with the top 10.

Outsourcing provider <i>(fill in empty rows with provider name, add rows if required)</i>	Total value of liquid specials procured from each provider		
	Apr-20 to Mar-21	Apr-21 to Mar-22	Apr-20 to Mar-21

Response:

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) is unable to provide you with all of the information requested, as it is estimated that the cost of answering your request would exceed the “appropriate limit” as stated in the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. The “appropriate limit” represents the estimated cost of one person spending 18 hours (or 2½ working days) in determining whether the UHB holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

In order to provide you with the data requested for question 1, the UHB would be required to undertake manual search of its Pharmacy systems, identify the requested medicines, then undertake a manual trawl to separate out the liquids from tablets/injections and the associated costs.

The UHB is therefore applying an exemption under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA), which provides an exemption from a public authority’s obligation to comply with a request for information where the cost of compliance is estimated to exceed the appropriate limit.

However, under section 16 of the FoIA, the UHB has a duty to provide advice and assistance. Therefore, the UHB provides the accessible information it holds below.

1. The UHB provides, within the table below, the total cost and the volumes for the unlicensed medicines across all of the types requested, for the 2020/21 to 2022/23 financial years.

Financial year	Actual total cost	Total volume
2020/21	£178,686.15	412,612 ml
2021/22	£178,141.68	533,018 ml
2022/23	£289,040.52	595,344 ml

2. The UHB confirms that it does not manufacture pharmaceuticals. Its pharmaceuticals are procured from manufacturers based on a clinical need.
3. & 4. Not applicable.