

2 August 2016

Dear Mr Haddow,

## **Information Request – Amputations**

I am writing with regard to your Freedom of Information request on 12 July 2016 that was received by NHS Health Scotland the same day, in which you ask the following:

### *“Freedom of Information Request 1:*

*How many amputations were carried out on patients which were deemed necessary as a result of injuries caused by injecting illegal drugs (or other psychoactive substances / 'legal highs' or prescription drugs - any injecting activity that could be characterised as general drug misuse) were carried out in years 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016 (for whichever of these years this information can be retrieved)?*

*If the specific information in the FOI Request 1 is not recorded would it be possible to request the following information:*

- a) How many patients required amputations in these years?*
- b) Of these patients how many reported to misuse drugs?*

### *Freedom of Information Request 2:*

*What is the breakdown of the nature of amputations relating to drug-injecting related injury - i.e. how many had a leg or a hand or foot amputated?*

### *Freedom of Information Request 3:*

*How many incidents of Deep Vein Thrombosis were recorded in patients as a result of drug injecting in years 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016 (for whichever of these years this information can be retrieved)?*

*If the specific information in the FOI Request 3 is not available would it be possible to request the following information:*

- a) How many patients were diagnosed with Deep Vein Thrombosis in these years?*
- b) Of these patients how many were reported to misuse drugs?*

### *Freedom of Information Request 4:*

*How many patients were recorded with drug injecting injuries as a result of drug misuse during years 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016 (for whichever of these years this information can be retrieved)?*

### *Freedom of Information Request 5:*

*Is information publicly available (year on year) for amputations carried out, cause and need for amputation and whether or not patients misuse drugs, and misuse of drug related injecting injuries - perhaps in a database or databases I can readily access?*

Unfortunately we are unable to help you with your request. Although NHS Health Scotland is a part of the NHS in Scotland, we do not provide health services directly to the public and we have no role in monitoring or providing the information that you are looking for. Our role is to work with a range of organisations including other NHS Boards, local government, the third sector and employers to help them use knowledge about what works to improve the health of people in Scotland. [This link](#) describes the different organisations that make up the NHS in Scotland.

I trust that this answers your query. However, if for any reason you are not satisfied with our response, you do have the right to ask the Chief Executive to review our response. You should do this within 40 working days of receipt of this letter and in a recordable format (letter, email, audio tape etc). The Chief Executive will consider your query, consulting with others as necessary, and will respond to you within 20 working days.

I hope that this is of help to you.

Yours sincerely



**Cath Denholm**  
**Director of Strategy**  
**NHS Health Scotland**