

Our ref: NIC-177585-BGJHV

11th January 2013

Dear Mr Telfor,

Re: Information Request – Freedom of Information Act (FOI Act) 2000

I can confirm that the Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC) has considered your query dated the 17th December 2012.

- a. How many people were emitted to hospitals because of anabolic steroid poisoning in the following years;*
- b. 2008-2009?*
- c. 2009 – 2010?*
- d. 2010 – 2011?*
- e. 2011 – 2012?*
- f. January 2012 – October 2012?*
- g. How many patients were treated for anabolic steroid related illnesses as well? In the same years as b,c,d,e,f.*

Thank you for your request for information. I can confirm the HSCIC does hold some of the specific information you requested as it has been previously produced in response to a Parliamentary Question (PQ).

Please see attached a response given to the below PQ in July of 2012.

PQ117853: Jo Swinson (East Dunbartonshire): To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many people in each region (a) under 18 years and (b) in total were treated for poisoning by steroid in each of the last five years. [117853].

Please note that the HSCIC responded to this PQ on the basis of coding advice from Data Standards at Connecting for Health with ICD-10 codes that are directly indexable to steroids.

With regards to any further information you require i.e. 2011-12 data, under section 21 of the Act, we are not required to provide this information as it is already reasonably accessible to you. This exemption applies because the information you have requested may be available via the HESonline (Hospital Episode Statistics online) service. To obtain a tailor made report you need to follow the link on the front page of the HES Online website which says 'Request a tailor made report'. This link then directs you to a page where you can download a tabulation/extract request pack which also includes details of where to send the completed pack as well as the charges that may occur.

www.hesonline.nhs.uk

HES data is included in our Publication Scheme along with an explanation of costs for bespoke reports, in accordance with the Information Commissioner's guidance for Charging for Information in a Publication Scheme.

In response to part g, we are unable to identify anabolic steroid related illnesses.

In line with the Information Commissioner's directive on the disclosure of information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 your request will form part of our disclosure log. Therefore, a version of our response which will protect your anonymity will be posted on the HSCIC website.

I trust you are satisfied with our response to your request for information. However, if you are not satisfied, you may request a review from a suitably qualified member of staff not involved in the initial query, via the enquiries@ic.nhs.uk e mail address or by post at the above postal address.

I will assume that your request to the organisation is now closed.

Yours sincerely,

James Smith
Higher Information Governance Officer

Further information about your right to complain under the Freedom of Information Act is available from the Information Commissioner's Office, Wilmslow, Cheshire, and on The Information Commissioner's website www.ico.gov.uk.

The Health and Social Care Information Centre values customer feedback and would appreciate a moment of your time to respond to our Freedom of Information (FOI) Survey to let us know about your experience. Please access the survey through this link

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/HSCIC_FOI_Feedback