

Dr Phillip Lee MP
request-138956-0950097c@whatdotheyknow.com
request-138957-f57b3939@whatdotheyknow.com

Information Governance Department

Wharf House
Medway Wharf Road
Tonbridge
Kent
TN9 1RE

E-mail: foi@nhs.net

Telephone: 01732 375200

Fax: 01732 362525

30 December 2012

Our Ref: FOI.12.0356

Dear Dr Lee

RE: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

I am writing in response to your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 received on 20 November 2012 by one or all three of the three primary care trusts in NHS Kent and Medway.

All answers relate to NHS West Kent, NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent and NHS Medway unless otherwise indicated. The information that you requested is listed below together with a response in each case:

How much did the PCT spent in the last 3 years on the dispensing cost (excluding drug costs) by (a) pharmacies (b) GPs.

- a) The NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) tell us how much we are expected to pay towards the total cost of Community Pharmacy services but that includes other areas apart from dispensing. The total time to break this down any further would exceed 18 hours, therefore we are exempting this part of the request under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

The Act provides an exemption where the cost of compliance is estimated to exceed the appropriate limit. The Freedom of Information Act allows for a reasonable period of time to be spent on responding to requests. Taking into consideration your request, in its current form, would take us beyond this limit.

Similarly, a lot of the costs for these areas are "fair shared" across the country and therefore we only pay our "fair share" of national costs (East Kent fair share is 1.37%, West Kent is 1.25% and Medway is 0.47%).

The NHSBSA publish these figures nationally. They can be accessed on the following link: <http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/PrescriptionServices/3198.aspx>

- b) The dispensing costs for GPs are as follows:

PCT	Y/E 31.03.2012	Y/E 31.03.2011	Y/E 31.03.2010
NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent	£2570327.15	£2375073.31	£2007935.51
NHS West Kent	£3122224.53	£3158146.09	£2753453.11
NHS Medway	£653444.16	£647463.69	£549844.73

What is the number of prescriptions by (a) GP and (b) pharmacies.

We do not hold this information; however, the dispensing figures can be accessed on <http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/PrescriptionServices/3198.aspx>.

What is the number of dispensing patients for (a) GP and (b) pharmacies.

a) The number for dispensing patients for GPs are as follows:

PCT	Number of dispensing patients for GPs
NHS Eastern & Coastal Kent	59614
NHS West Kent	75509
NHS Medway	15428

b) We do not hold information regarding the number for dispensing patients in pharmacies as patients can access any pharmacy of their choice. The numbers for GP dispensing practices is also available on the website <http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/PrescriptionServices/3198.aspx>

We have also attached a document (please see attachment 1) that has just been published by the DH which may be of interest to you. It can also be found on the following link: <http://www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/primary-care/pharmacies/general-pharmaceutical-services-in-england-2002-03-to-2011-12>

I hope that this has dealt with your questions but if you are not satisfied with the way your request has been dealt with, please feel free to contact me directly. If you remain unhappy, you may approach our Chief Executive in writing at:

Chief Executive
NHS Kent and Medway
Wharf House,
Medway Wharf Road
Tonbridge,
Kent,
TN9 1RE

Should you remain dissatisfied with the outcome you have the right under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act (2000) to appeal against the decision by contacting the Information Commissioner.

The Information Commissioner provides full and detailed guidance on the Freedom of Information Act and on when and how to complain.

Please find below the link to their website page and their helpline number.

http://www.ico.gov.uk/complaints/freedom_of_information.aspx

Helpline number: 0303 123 1113

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 NHS Kent and Medway website.

Yours sincerely

Janet McCartney
Freedom of Information/Data Protection Act Manager

Copyright Notice

The information supplied to you continues to be protected by the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988. You are free to use it for your own purposes, including any non-commercial research you are doing and for the purposes of news reporting. Any other re-use, for example commercial publication and subscription charge, would require the permission of the copyright holder. In accordance with the Re-Use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2005, information provided to you may not be used for commercial publication, subscription charge or sold on to a third party, without the permission of NHS Kent and Medway.