

James Kelly

[request-674789-ac6cb0c3@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-674789-ac6cb0c3@whatdotheyknow.com)

Ref: 10297/10444/11695

**Information Governance**  
Stella House, Goldcrest Way  
Newburn Riverside  
Newcastle Upon Tyne  
NE15 8NY

Email: [nhsbsa.foirequests@nhs.net](mailto:nhsbsa.foirequests@nhs.net)  
Website: [www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk](http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk)

Date 22 March 2021

Dear Mr Kelly

**Subject: Freedom of information request**

I am writing to confirm that following a further review of your request we are revising the response issued to you on 17 September 2020 and 19 October 2020.

*'Dear NHS Business Services Authority, If the NHS could have purchased in bulk quantities the remaining 60,000 named patients would have continued to benefit from suitable analgesia which had been guaranteed by June Raine (MHRA) and Caroline Flint (Minister for Public Health during 2007)!*

**FOI request:**

1. Please supply the names of the licensed Importers and the Chemists who were reimbursed for the following:

- a) South Kent CCG paid £0.46 per tablet during March 2019
- b) South Kent CCG paid £3.26 per tablet during April 2019
- c) NHS Enfield CCG paid £5.22 per tablet during July and December 2019

2. Please supply copies of all correspondence between NHSBSA, 'Licensed Importers', and the chemists who had been reimbursed for Co-proxamol prescriptions.

3. Please supply copies of all correspondence to any other department within DOHSC/NHS regarding the erratic pricing of Co-proxamol.'

On 19/8/20 you clarified the following:

*'1. Please supply the names of the licensed Importers and the Chemists who were reimbursed for the following:*

- a) South Kent CCG paid £0.46 per tablet during March 2019
- b) South Kent CCG paid £3.26 per tablet during April 2019

*c) NHS Enfield CCG paid £5.22 per tablet during July and December 2019*

*2. Please supply copies of all correspondence between NHSBSA, 'Licensed*

*Importers', and the chemists who had been reimbursed for Co-proxamol*

*prescriptions.*

*3. Please supply copies of all correspondence to any other department*

*within DOHSC/NHS regarding the erratic pricing of Co-proxamol.*

*All questions relate to the erratic pricing of Co-proxamol, It's obvious that some importers / Suppliers are overcharging NHS at an alarming level considering the fact that Co-proxamol had been available to all CCG's for just £0.45 pence per prior to the GPhC inspection on 22nd August 2018!*

*Example: Figures For August 2018 From:*

*<https://openprescribing.net/all-england/0407010Q0AAAAAA/price-per-unit/?date=2018-08-01>*

*CCG / Price per tablet*

*NHS Barnet CCG £7.41*

*NHS Trafford CCG £5.90*

*NHS Northern, Eastern and Western Devon CCG / £0.99*

*NHS Bradford Districts CCG / £0.96*

*NHS Mansfield and*

*Ashfield CCG / £0.90*

*NHS East Lancashire CCG / £0.87*

*N.B.*

*Barnet, Camden, Enfield, Haringey, and Islington Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) have merged as of 1 April 2020 to form North Central London CCG*

Revised response

### **Questions 2 and 3**

I am writing to advise you that following a search of our paper and electronic records, I have established that the information you requested is not held by the NHS Business Services Authority. The NHSBSA has not been in contact with DHSC or "Importers"/Chemists in relation to the prescribing/dispensing of Co-Proxamol.

Our role is to reimburse and remunerate dispensing contractors following the submission of their dispensed prescriptions we do not engage in any dialogue or correspondence with "licensed importers."

If a prescription for Co-Proxamol is submitted to the NHSBSA for payment we will either pay the price that is currently listed on our database or the invoice price that is endorsed by the dispensing contractor on the prescription form. Any information relating to the price paid for coproxamol tablets may be requested by the DHSC/NHSE&I via NHSBSA Information Services.

## Question 1

Following a further assessment of the data requested we have reached the conclusion that an individual patient cannot be identified by another person from the requested information or by using other information.

Therefore please find attached a copy of the information, together with caveats to explain it.

The information supplied to you continues to be protected by the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 and is subject to NHSBSA copyright. This information is licenced under the terms of the Open Government Licence detailed at:

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3/>

Should you wish to re-use the information you must include the following statement: "ePACT2, NHSBSA Copyright 2020" This information is licenced under the terms of the Open Government Licence:

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3/>

Failure to do so is a breach of the terms of the licence.

Information you receive which is not subject to NHSBSA Copyright continues to be protected by the copyright of the person, or organisation, from which the information originated.

Please obtain their permission before reproducing any third party (non NHSBSA Copyright) information.

## Data Queries

**If you have any queries regarding the data provided, or if you plan on publishing, or producing a press article based upon the data please contact [nhsbsa.help@nhs.net](mailto:nhsbsa.help@nhs.net) ensuring you quote the above reference. This is important to ensure that the figures are not misunderstood or misrepresented.**

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) for a decision. Please note that generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the NHS Business Services Authority's complaints procedure.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:-

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF  
Email: [icocasework@ico.org.uk](mailto:icocasework@ico.org.uk)

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me. Please quote the reference number above in any future.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Chris Gooday', is centered within a light blue rectangular box.

**Chris Gooday**  
**Information Governance Manager**

cc     Marc Compton, Head of Security and Information Governance