



# Department of Health

Freedom of Information  
Team  
Department of Health  
G18, Richmond House  
79 Whitehall  
London SW1A 2NS

[www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)

Ms Taylor  
[request-393462-f2c78c0e@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-393462-f2c78c0e@whatdotheyknow.com)

27 March 2017

Dear Ms Taylor,

## **Freedom of Information Request Reference FOI-1077178**

Thank you for your request dated 5 March 2017, in which you asked the Department of Health (DH):

*“Please provide numbers/ figures of :*

*Entitled beneficiaries, eligible beneficiaries, take up (%) total children's drops claimed, children's drop uptake, (%) for:*

*East Midlands*

*East of England*

*London*

*North East*

*North West*

*South East*

*South West*

*West Midlands*

*Yorkshire Humber*

*Also in summary*

*The regions of Liverpool, Manchester, Birmingham and Nottingham Numbers of entitled beneficiaries, eligible beneficiaries and % take up”*

Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

I can confirm that the DH holds some of the information you requested. As you did not specify a time period, your request has been interpreted to provide the latest available data. The differing time periods for the tables below is a result of data being obtained from sources that use different timeframes for data collection. The Healthy Start Voucher data is a snapshot from a four week cycle, and the Healthy Start Vitamin Drops reimbursement data is collected on a quarterly basis.

Table 1 shows eligible beneficiaries (those who qualify to apply for Healthy Start) and entitled beneficiaries in the regions you requested. Beneficiaries become entitled once their completed Healthy Start application form has been processed and approved by the Healthy Start Issuing Unit.

**Table 1 - Healthy Start Voucher figures***(Cycle 179 covering period: 9th January 2017 - 5th February 2017)*

Region	Eligible beneficiaries	Entitled beneficiaries	Take up
East Midlands	37,051	25,694	69.3%
East of England	40,724	25,382	62.3%
London	71,171	45,593	64.1%
North East	28,699	21,598	75.3%
North West	66,430	44,927	67.6%
South East	54,219	33,834	62.4%
South West	33,135	21,702	65.5%
West Midlands	58,596	40,997	70.0%
Yorkshire & Humber	53,955	38,621	71.6%
Birmingham	17,217	12,386	71.9%
Liverpool	6,060	4,319	71.3%
Manchester	7,808	5,560	71.2%
Nottingham	4,962	3,813	76.8%

**Table 2 – Healthy Start Children’s Vitamin Drops reimbursement***(Covering period: April 2016 – December 2016)*

Region	Total children's drops claimed
East Midlands	1,271
East of England	1,326
London	9,197
North East	723
North West	2,097
Somerset	181
South East	2,577
South West	1,372
West Midlands	8,207
Yorkshire & Humber	4,424

The DH does not hold the information you requested on children’s drops uptake in percentage terms. This is because not all organisations that can claim reimbursement choose to do so.

If you are not satisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to appeal by asking for an internal review. This should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to the address at the top of this letter, or the email address at the end of this letter.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communication.

If you are not content with the outcome of your internal review, you may complain directly to the Information Commissioner (ICO) who may decide to investigate your concerns. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have already appealed our original response, and received our internal review response. The ICO will not usually investigate concerns where there has been an undue delay in bringing it to their attention. You should raise your concerns with them within three months of your last meaningful contact with us.

The ICO can be contacted at:

The Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow SK9 5AF

<https://ico.org.uk/concerns>

Yours sincerely,

Charlene Carter

Freedom of Information Officer  
[FreedomOfInformation@dh.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:FreedomOfInformation@dh.gsi.gov.uk)