

Mr Dan Vevers
(Request received by email)
request-235510-35c4a240@whatdotheyknow.com

Date 5 December 2014
Your Ref
Our Ref 2014-000230
Enquiries to BBV/STI Team
Extension
Direct Line 0141 300 1104
Email nss.hpsbbvsti@nhs.net

Dear Mr Vevers,

Re Request Ref No 2014-000230

Thank for your email of 24 October 2014 requesting the following:

"How many diagnosed sufferers of HIV are there in Scotland? In the year 2013, and also if you have figures for 2014 so far, how many HIV sufferers in Scotland received treatment by the NHS? Finally, what was the total cost of said treatment?"

I confirm that Health Protection Scotland and our colleagues at NHS National Procurement does hold the information you have requested and now have pleasure in providing you with the appropriate data:

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As at 30 Sept 2014, there are an estimated 4785 diagnosed HIV infected individuals living in Scotland.
As at 31 December 2013, there were 3850 HIV infected individuals attending specialist HIV care and treatment services of whom 3358 were on treatment.
As at 30 June 2014 (most up to date attendance data), there were 3978 HIV infected individuals attending specialist HIV care and treatment services of whom 3565 were on treatment.

Data from the quarterly report on HIV infection in Scotland published in Health Protection Scotland's Weekly Report, available at <http://www.hps.scot.nhs.uk/>

The current annual estimated cost of HIV treatment in Scotland is difficult to definitively quantify due to the wide variety of drug combinations that are commonly prescribed. HIV pharmacists estimate that first line therapies cost approximately £5760 per patient per year. There are also a wide variety of second line treatment options which can increase treatment cost up to approximately £7800 per patient per year. Thus, the estimated cost per year of therapies to treat HIV infected individuals in Scotland is at least £20.5 million (£5760 x 3565 on treatment at 30 June 2014) for the current numbers receiving treatment.

Cost estimates from NHS National Procurement (27 November 2014)

Notes and interpretation:

Health Protection Scotland (HPS) coordinates national surveillance programmes on HIV and AIDS in Scotland.

Estimated number of diagnosed persons living in Scotland: This estimate is calculated by adding persons currently attending, persons recently reported but not yet attending, persons of Scots origin/ethnicity who are lost to follow-up, and 54% of individuals of non-Scots origin/ethnicity who are lost to follow-up. Data from the 2010/2011 HIV Action Plan (Action 6) quantitative project, the 2011 BASHH Scotland Audit (both investigating reported HIV-positive individuals lost to follow-up), and routine follow-up of cases performed by HPS indicate that approximately 46% of non-Scots who have not attended for specialist monitoring/treatment for over 1 year are presumed to have left Scotland.

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I hope this information is helpful to you. Please do not hesitate to contact me on 0141 300 1104 / nss.hpsbbvsti@nhs.net if I can be of any further assistance.

If however, you are unhappy with any aspect of how we have dealt with your request you can make representations to us asking us to review the handling of your request. Please write to the Associate Director of Corporate Affairs and Identity, NHS National Services Scotland, Headquarters, Gyle Square, 1 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9EB within 40 working days of the date of this correspondence.

You also have the right to apply to the Scottish Information Commissioner, who can be contacted at Kinburn Castle, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS.

Yours sincerely,

Prof. David Goldberg
Lead Consultant
Blood Borne Virus and Sexually transmitted Infection team (BBV/STI)
Health Protection Scotland