



Department of Health

05/05/2015

DE00000932679 & DE00000932811

Dear Elisabeth,

Thank you for your requests of 17-20 April 2015 under the Freedom of Information Act (2000). Your exact requests were:

DE00000932679

"I am requesting information with reference to the acne drug Isotretinoin (Roaccutane).

[1] I would like the most recent figures held by the Department of Health on the current number of acne-sufferers in the UK (if possible making a distinction between the number of teenage and adult acne-sufferers). How many people are living in the UK are currently taking Roaccutane? And how many people in total have taken Roaccutane in the past 20 years?

[2] The number of complaints received by the Department of Health regarding the drug Roaccutane in the past year (2014/2015).

[3] The number of people who experienced adverse reactions to Roaccutane in the past year (2014/2015).

[4] How many patients were prescribed Isotretinoin (Roaccutane) without presenting symptoms of severe acne ie. moderate acne instead in the past 5 years?

[5] How many patients were prescribed Isotretinoin (Roaccutane) without having previously taken other less strong skin medication for their acne condition?

[6] How many suicides have been potentially linked to the drug in the UK in the past 5 years?"

DE00000932811

“[7] I would also like to add a request for the average revenue generated by the sale of oral isotretinoin each year?”

To address each of your questions in turn:

[1], [4], [5] & [7]

The Department does not hold or maintain the information requested.

The Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC) may not hold information on the number of people taking medicines or the medical condition for which medicines are prescribed, but they may hold information on the overall number of prescription items dispensed for Roaccutane. HSCIC may also hold relevant information in terms of income generated from the NHS from the sale of Roaccutane, as defined by the net ingredient cost of prescription items.

If you require this information, contact details for HSCIC are as follows:

Website: <http://www.hscic.gov.uk/foi>

Email: enquiries@hscic.nhs.uk

Telephone: 0300 303 5678

[2], [3] & [6]

The Department does not hold this information.

However, you may wish to contact the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), who may hold information relevant to your request. Details on how to do so are as follows:

Website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/medicines-and-healthcare-products-regulatory-agency>

Email: info@mhra.gsi.gov.uk

Telephone: 020 3080 6000

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

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to:

Head of the Freedom of Information Team
Department of Health
Room 520

Richmond House
79 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2NS

Email: FreedomofInformation@dh.gsi.gov.uk

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner (ICO) for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the Department. The ICO can be contacted at:

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

Yours sincerely,

Graham Sale

Freedom of Information Officer
Department of Health

FreedomofInformation@dh.gsi.gov.uk