



Trust Headquarters  
Nexus House  
4 Gatwick Road  
Crawley  
West Sussex  
RH10 9BG

Internal Ref:  
Email:

Tel: 0300 123 0999  
[www.secamb.nhs.uk](http://www.secamb.nhs.uk)

Dear ,

The trust acknowledges receipt of your Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) request, referenced above. Please ensure you quote this number in any future correspondence.

Please accept the Trust's apologies for the delay and inconvenience you have experienced regarding your FOIA request.

### **FOI Request**

You asked us:

**This is an information request relating to NHS Trusts buying and supplying Paracetamol and ibuprofen.**

**Please include the following information for the financial years 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25:**

- **The total number of individual patients to whom paracetamol and ibuprofen were prescribed by your Trust annually.**
- **The total amount spent by your Trust on supplying prescribed paracetamol and ibuprofen in each of those financial years.**
- **If available, a breakdown of the form in which paracetamol was prescribed (e.g., tablets, capsules, liquid suspension, etc.) and associated costs for each form.**
- **What are the specific conditions which qualify a patient to be prescribed paracetamol or ibuprofen? Or what is your general policy for qualifying a prescription for paracetamol or ibuprofen?**

**If it is not possible to provide the information requested due to the information exceeding the cost of compliance limits identified in Section 12, please provide advice and assistance, under the Section 16 obligations of the Act, as to how I can refine my request.**



## **Formal Response**

The Trust confirms it holds part of the information you requested.

- **The total number of individual patients to whom paracetamol and ibuprofen were prescribed by your Trust annually.**
- **If available, a breakdown of the form in which paracetamol was prescribed (e.g., tablets, capsules, liquid suspension, etc.) and associated costs for each form.**

Please see attached spreadsheet – *FOI 250420 - Prescribed Paracetamol Ibuprofen*.

- **The total amount spent by your Trust on supplying prescribed paracetamol and ibuprofen in each of those financial years.**

We do not hold this information.

- **What are the specific conditions which qualify a patient to be prescribed paracetamol or ibuprofen? Or what is your general policy for qualifying a prescription for paracetamol or ibuprofen?**

Please find the prescribing policy on our website: <https://www.secamb.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Prescribing-Policy.pdf>

To extract this information would mean going through each individual record and exceed 18 hours and would therefore fall under Section 12- FOI (Appropriate limit and fees) Regulations 2004

## **Next steps**

We publish a variety of information which may assist future enquiries relating to our service on our website – [www.secamb.nhs.uk](http://www.secamb.nhs.uk).

Should you be dissatisfied with our response then in the first instance please contact Richard Banks, Head of Corporate Governance, via the following email address: [FOI@secamb.nhs.uk](mailto:FOI@secamb.nhs.uk)

You can ask us to review our original response. If you would like us to carry out an internal review, please let us know within 40 working days of you receiving our original response. This review will be conducted by an individual who was not directly involved in reviewing the original response, ordinarily, the Trust Data Protection Officer. We will endeavour to complete this request within 20 working days.

Should you remain dissatisfied then you can contact the [Information Commissioner's Office](https://www.ico.org.uk/foicomplaints) (ICO). Complaints to the ICO should be made within six weeks of receiving the outcome of an internal review. The easiest way to lodge a complaint is through their website: [www.ico.org.uk/foicomplaints](https://www.ico.org.uk/foicomplaints).

Alternatively, the ICO's postal address is:



Saving Lives,  
Serving Our Communities

Chair: Michael Whitehouse CEO: Simon Weldon

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

Yours sincerely,

**Freedom of Information Coordinator  
South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust**



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