

29/01/2015

BY EMAIL

Tel: 028 9536 3863
Email: FOI.BSO@hscni.net

Our Ref: FOI 3-2014

Dear Ms [REDACTED],

Your request for information was received on January 13th 2015 and was dealt with under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Please be advised that the Business Services Organisation (BSO) has now completed its search for the information you requested with regards to prescription dispensing data in Northern Ireland.

Please see below your specific queries with our relevant response. These figures relate to items dispensed between December 2013 and November 2014 inclusive.

1. The most up to date annual figure for the total number of prescription items dispensed in Northern Ireland.

I can confirm that the most up to date annual figure for prescription items dispensed in Northern Ireland is 39,517,306. This figure includes Community Pharmacies, Dispensing Doctors, and Appliance Suppliers.

The number of items dispensed by Community Pharmacy is 39,248,981.

2. The total number of Licenced Contractors.

I can confirm that the total number of licenced contractors is 535.

3. The most up to date monthly average number of prescriptions items per licenced contractor.

The monthly average for dispensed items per licenced contractor is 6,114.

I hope that the information provided assists you. If you are dissatisfied in any way with the handling of your request, you have the right to request a review. You should do this as soon as possible or in any case within two months of the date of issue of this letter.

In the event that you require a review to be undertaken, you can do so by writing to



Administrative Services Manager,
2 Franklin Street,
Belfast,
BT2 8DQ

If, following an internal review, carried out by an independent decision making panel, you remain dissatisfied in any way with the handling of the request, you may make a complaint under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act, to the Information Commissioner's Office and ask that they investigate whether the BSO has complied with the terms of the Freedom of Information Act.

You can contact Information Commissioner at:

Website: www.ico.org.uk

Phone: 0303 123 1113

Email: casework@ico.org.uk

Post: Information Commissioner's Office, 3rd Floor, 14 Cromac Place, Belfast, BT7 2JB

In most circumstances the Information Commissioner will not investigate a complaint unless an internal review procedure has been carried out. However the Commissioner has the option to investigate the matter at his discretion.

Yours Sincerely,

David Bingham
Chief Executive