



National Audit Office

The UK's independent public spending
watchdog

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Reference FOI-1611

Date 23rd May 2023

UNLICENSED PRESCRIPTION MEDICINES IMPORTED INTO THE UK

Thank you for your request of 6th April 2023 in relation to the total NHS spend (and number of products) on unlicensed prescription medicines imported into the UK. Your request was considered in accordance with the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Your specific request is reproduced at **Annex A** for your reference.

We have carried out a thorough search for the information you requested, and we have established that we do not hold the information as it is not recorded as part of the work the NAO carries out.

However, we are aware of publicly available data sets that might help you. The NHS Business Services Authority publishes data relating to the 'volume and cost of special order products' particularly the 'National top 500 special order products'. This information can be found here: [Volume and cost of special order products | NHSBSA](#)

Alternatively, if you need any further information, the contact details for NHS BSA are: [Submit a freedom of information request - NHSBSA](#).

Annex B sets out the steps you may wish to take if you are not satisfied with the way we have handled your request.

I hope this information helps your enquiry.

Yours sincerely

NAO FOI Team

Annex A

Request for information about 'The total NHS England spend (and number of products) on Unlicensed Prescription Medicines imported into the UK on a special licence basis in the latest FY 2022/23'.

Annex B

Statement of Policy

Our policy is to respond to requests made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 as helpfully and promptly as possible, having regard to the principles set out in the Act. I therefore hope you are happy with the way we have handled your request. If you are not, then you should take the following steps.

In the first instance, within 40 working days, write to the National Audit Office Freedom of Information (FOI) Team at FOI.requests@nao.org.uk or by post* to:

FOI Team, Green 2, National Audit Office, 157-197 Buckingham Palace Road, London, SW1W 9SP

The Head of FOI will arrange a review, which will be conducted by a senior member of staff who was not involved in decisions relating to your original request. Once the review has been completed, we will write informing you of the outcome.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

<https://ico.org.uk/> or Information Commissioner's Office Wycliffe House Water Lane Wilmslow Cheshire SK9 5AF