



National Audit Office

The UK's independent public spending
watchdog

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Reference FOI-1830
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MEDICINE WASTE WITHIN THE NHS IN ENGLAND

Thank you for your request to the National Audit Office (NAO) dated 7 June 2025. You asked for the following information:

"Please could you provide the following data for the most recent 12-month period available:

1. *The estimated financial cost of wasted or unused prescription medicines across the NHS in England.*
2. *A breakdown, if possible, of this wastage by:*
 - *Returned or uncollected patient prescriptions*
 - *Expired or destroyed stock*
 - *Medicines disposed of in care settings (e.g. hospitals, GP practices, or community pharmacies)*
3. *Any internal reports, audits, or findings your organisation holds relating to medicines waste and/or medicines optimisation."*

We have checked our records and can confirm that we do not hold any information in scope of your request. We have not conducted any value for money work on the topic of medicine wastage and we do not hold the information you requested for the purposes of our financial audit work.

You may want to contact the Department of Health and Social Care or NHS England to ask if they have information relevant to your request. The email addresses for FOI requests are:

- Department of Health and Social Care - dhsc.publicenquiries@dhsc.gov.uk
- NHS England - england.contactus@nhs.net

I hope you are happy with the way we have handled your request. If you are not happy with this response, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days by writing to the NAO FOI Team at FOI@nao.org.uk. 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 primary way of escalating your concerns to the Information Commissioner is at: <https://ico.org.uk/foicomplaints>.

Yours sincerely,

NAO FOI Team