

FOI REF: 21/484

4<sup>th</sup> October 2021

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## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

I am responding to your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act. The answers to your specific questions are as follows:

**I would like to request the total spend on unlicensed medicine across your trust for the periods 2018,2019 and 2020. If possible could I have the data broken down into**

Please see the table below for the East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust's total spend on unlicensed medicine:

Year	Cost(£)
2018	173,065
2019	190,725
2020	245,565

- 1. imported medicines (products approved outside the uk)**
- 2. compounded/specials**
- 3. drug shortages.**

The Trust does not centrally record the information broken down as requested and also does not routinely record this data. To enable the Trust to provide the information that we do hold, would require a manual review of each drug on the list and make a decision which category it fell into, including checking contemporary any records for details of shortages, etc.

Section 12(1) of the Act allows a public authority to refuse to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of compliance would exceed the 'appropriate limit', as defined by the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 (the Regulations). These state that this cost limit is £450 for public authorities which are not part of central government or the armed forces. The costs are calculated at £25 per hour per person regardless of the rate of pay, which means that the limit will be exceeded if the work involved would exceed 18 hours. The Trust estimates that the cost of complying with this request would significantly exceed the above limit.

If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Should you be dissatisfied with the Trust's response to your request, please write to the Freedom of Information Department ([esh-tr.foi@nhs.net](mailto:esh-tr.foi@nhs.net)), quoting the above reference.

Yours sincerely

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