

11 January 2017

**Our Ref:** RFI 19199

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000**  
**Patients seen by Substitute Prescribing Team due to opiate use**

I am writing to confirm that the South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust (the Trust) has now completed its search for the information relating to the above which you requested on 15 December 2016.

*Q1. Could you please tell me how many patients in Northern Ireland are receiving treatment under the substitute prescribing team due to opiate use in the last five years, broken down by constituency/area.*

A1. The Business Services Organisation (BSO) collates and publishes data relating to prescribing activity in Northern Ireland. I have provided a link to the Pharmaceutical Statistics section of their website below which you may find helpful:

<http://www.hscbusiness.hscni.net/services/1806.htm>

*Q2. Could you also tell me how much these prescriptions have cost the health service in the last five years.*

A2. This information is also available via the link above.

For further information on these matters you should refer your request directly to the BSO at [Foi.bso@hscni.net](mailto:Foi.bso@hscni.net).

Under the terms of the legislation, if you are unhappy with this response you have the right to seek a review within the Trust in the first instance. If you wish to do so, please write to me at the address below.

If after such a review you are still unhappy with the response, you have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioner who will undertake an independent review. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, SK9 5AF.

If you have any queries about this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

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**L McAree (Miss)**  
**Head of Information Governance &**  
**Directorate Support**