

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Date 27 August 2026
Your Ref FOI-2026-3443
Our Ref FOI-2026-3443

Enquiries to [REDACTED]
Email psd.foi@nhs.scot

Dear [REDACTED],

Freedom of Information Reference FOI-2026-3443

I refer to your Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA) request that we received on 30 July 2026 requesting the following information:

Private prescriptions for Schedule 2 controlled drugs must be issued on a PPCD(1) form (also referenced as PHS(PPCD)01). Community pharmacies are required to submit the original forms to NHS National Services Scotland together with a CD34 declaration. My request concerns the information derived from those submissions.

1. Please confirm whether the following information is held, and if so in what form (for example a database, a spreadsheet, or paper records only).

2. For each of the following drug substances, please provide the number of private controlled drug prescriptions submitted to NSS on PPCD(1) forms:

- Methylphenidate (BNF drug substance code 0404000M0)
- Lisdexamfetamine (0404000U0)
- Dexamfetamine (0404000L0)

3. Broken down by calendar month, and by NHS health board of the dispensing pharmacy.

4. For the period January 2016 to the most recent month available, or for as far back as the information is held if that is later than January 2016.

5. Where held, please also include, for each month and health board: the number of items, the total quantity dispensed, and the number of distinct prescribers.

6. Please also confirm whether any of this information is already published, and if so provide a link, so that I do not duplicate an existing publication.

Format

Chair Mr Keith Redpath
Chief Executive Professor Karen Reid

I would prefer the information in a machine readable format such as CSV or Excel, rather than as a PDF or as figures embedded in a narrative response.

If the cost limit is engaged

If any part of this request would exceed the £600 excessive cost threshold, I ask that you consider it under your duty to advise and assist and provide the widest subset that falls within the limit. My priority order is:

- 1. Monthly totals by health board for all three substances combined***
- 2. Monthly totals for Scotland as a whole, split by substance***
- 3. Annual rather than monthly totals***

Please do not refuse the request in full without first telling me which of these narrower alternatives could be met.

Context

Public Health Scotland publishes NHS prescribing at GP practice level through the Prescriptions in the Community open data release. That release covers NHS prescribing only. Since private prescriptions for these substances are already collected centrally by NSS for controlled drug governance purposes, the information requested should be derivable from existing records.

An equivalent analysis is published annually for England. NHS Business Services Authority supplies private controlled drug prescribing data to the Care Quality Commission, which reports it in its "Safer management of controlled drugs" annual update, including a named breakdown of methylphenidate, lisdexamfetamine and dexamfetamine. No equivalent figure has been published for Scotland.

This request is for non-commercial interest research.

Under Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, NHS National Services Scotland does not hold this information. I would advise you to contact PHS for this information: [FOI and EIR requests - Contact us - Public Health Scotland](#)

I hope that you will find this response helpful and if you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me using the email address psd.foi@nhs.scot

If you are unhappy with any aspect of how we have dealt with your request, you can make representations to us asking us to review the handling of your request. Please write to the Associate Director Corporate Governance using the email address psd.foi@nhs.scot within 40 working days of the date of this correspondence.

If after a review you are still unhappy, you also have the right to apply to the Scottish Information Commissioner, who can be contacted at Kinburn Castle, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS, or via their [online Appeal form](#).

Yours sincerely,

