



**Scottish
Ambulance
Service**

University National NHS Board



Freedom of Information Request

21st August 2024

Question

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information from the Scottish Ambulance Service

1. Please could you tell me: the total number of Scottish Ambulance Service call-outs to patients suspected of having suffered an overdose after using a nitazene-type drug (such as N-pyrrolidino-etomidate, metomidate, or propomidate) between 1st January 2020 and 1st June 2024.

I request that these figures are broken down by year, and presented in the form of an excel document OR within a table on a PDF document.

If it is not possible to provide the information requested due to the information exceeding the cost of compliance limits identified in Section 12, please provide advice and assistance, under the Section 16 obligations of the Act, as to how I can refine my request. If you can identify any ways that my request could be refined I would be grateful for any further advice and assistance. If you have any queries please don't hesitate to contact me via email or phone and I will be very happy to clarify what I am asking for and discuss the request.

Answer

The Scottish Ambulance Service has applied section 17 to your request of the recorded number of cases of overdoses using nitazene-type drugs. This exemption applies if the organisation does not hold the information and would be required to create new information to answer a request.

To explain further, the Service holds information on how many overdose incidents have been attended by the Scottish Ambulance Service, but we do not hold information in a way that allows us to determine what substance was used for the overdose. To identify, collate and provide the information requested, would require analysis of each incident; this would require complex skill and judgement of multi-disciplinary teams across the Service.