

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-0076
Date: 01 February 2022



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002

I refer to your recent request for information which has been handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

For ease of reference, your request is replicated below together with the response.

Please inform who was responsible for the executive decision to give all detainees except if identified as pregnant, the unlicensed drug dihydrocodeine for their heroin addiction. This despite it knowing that it caused physical painful reactions and mental trauma.

Yet, “Doctors must make it very clear to the patient that the medication is unlicensed, and why that is. Patients must be told why the drug is being prescribed, what alternatives exist, and have all their questions answered fully. You must make a clear record that the indications for the drug and the risks have been explained and that the patient both understands the risks and is willing to accept them.” This was not complied with, who made the decision and why did they deceive both the police and the detainees.

Could you provide a list of doctors and nurses who provided unlicensed drugs to detainees and the advice issued to Police Scotland, could you confirm that NHS Grampian did inform, you that dihydrocodeine was unlicensed for the treatment of heroin addiction. Where you also informed that it would inflict physical pain and trauma on detainees.

I would remind you that Freedom of Information provides a right of access to recorded information only.

As such, in terms of section 17 of the Act I can confirm that there is no information held by Police Scotland of relevance to these questions.

Medical provision for prisoners is the responsibility of National Health Service (NHS) Scotland.

The management of all medication given to an individual whilst in police custody is the responsibility of the NHS Healthcare Professional (HCP).

As such, any decision relating to medication provided to persons in custody in the Grampian area will be made by NHS Grampian.

Police Scotland does not hold lists or details of the names of doctors and nurses providing unlicensed drugs to person in custody.

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The NHS uses their own IT system to record the medication provided to persons in custody.

The HCP may provide Police Scotland with a Care Plan detailing any information the HCP deems necessary to share with the custody staff to enable them to provide ongoing care and welfare to the person in custody.

The need for, and content of, any Care Plan is the responsibility of the Healthcare Professional.

If you require any further information relating to the provision of medication to persons in police custody in NHS Grampian, please contact them.

Should you require any further assistance please contact Information Management - Dundee quoting the reference number given.

If you are dissatisfied with the way in which Police Scotland has dealt with your request, you are entitled, in the first instance, to request a review of our actions and decisions.

Your request must specify the matter which gives rise to your dissatisfaction and it must be submitted within 40 working days of receiving this response - either by email to foi@scotland.pnn.police.uk or by post to Information Management (Disclosure), Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalmarnock, G40 4EH.

If you remain dissatisfied following the outcome of that review, you are thereafter entitled to apply to the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner within six months for a decision. You can apply [online](#), by email to enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info or by post to Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS.

Should you wish to appeal against the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner's decision, there is an appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.

As part of our commitment to demonstrate openness and transparency in respect of the information we hold, an anonymised version of this response will be posted to the Police Scotland Freedom of Information [Disclosure Log](#) in seven days' time.

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