| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 25-1880  Responded to: 20 June 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**Why police custody staff are dispensing Dihydrocodeine to detainees. This seems to be against the restrictions on it use by NHS Grampian clinicians being banned since March 2023.**

* **5.7 Use of Other Opioids as OST**

**Oral opioids other than methadone and buprenorphine are not licensed in the UK for the treatment of opioid dependence. This includes dihydrocodeine and slow-release oral morphine preparations. They are not currently recommended, or on the Grampian Area Formulary, for use in Grampian. Treatment using prescribed diamorphine is not currently available.**

* **From 2007:**

**Which states: The treatment of heroin addiction is Methadone, nowhere is the use of Dihydrocodeine recommended or condoned. This statement is from 2009:**

**• The use of dihydrocodeine is not supported routinely and should only be iniatied by a specialist. Practitioners are reminded that use of dihydrocodene, as a prescribed opioid substitute for the treatment of misuse, is unlicensed.**

**Why is Police Scotland storing Dihydrocodeine without a controlled Drugs License, and most concerningly, why are Police Scotland giving unlicensed, unprescribed Dihydrocodeine without consent. When the prescriber NHS Grampian under instructions from the Scottish Government have banned it use, as a medication for heroin addicts.**

The information sought is not held by Police Scotland and section 17 of the Act therefore applies. By way of explanation, as you may be aware, the Act provides a right of access to recorded information only.  Questions seeking the creation of comment or opinion in relation to a particular query, are not therefore valid in terms of [section 8 of the Act](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2002/13/section/8). The provision of medical care within Police Scotland custody facilities is the responsibility of the NHS.

If you require any further assistance, please contact us quoting the reference above.

You can request a review of this response within the next 40 working days by [email](mailto:foi@scotland.police.uk) or by letter (Information Management - FOI, Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalmarnock, G40 4EH). Requests must include the reason for your dissatisfaction.

If you remain dissatisfied following our review response, you can appeal to the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner (OSIC) within 6 months - [online](https://www.foi.scot/appeal), by [email](mailto:enquiries@foi.scot) or by letter (OSIC, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, KY16 9DS).

Following an OSIC appeal, you can appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.

This response will be added to our [Disclosure Log](http://www.scotland.police.uk/access-to-information/freedom-of-information/disclosure-log) in seven days' time.

Every effort has been taken to ensure our response is as accessible as possible. If you require this response to be provided in an alternative format, please let us know.