

Freedom of Information Act 2000

Your request for information has now been considered and the Council's response to your questions is shown below.

You asked:

From April 2013 local authorities were given responsibility by Public Health England for providing drug and alcohol services. These services are to include treatment for those addicted to prescription drugs prescribed by their doctor and taken in accordance with the doctor's instructions.

This FOI request relates only to those patients who have become addicted to, or dependent upon, prescribed benzodiazepine and z drug tranquillisers and who have taken these drugs as directed by their doctors and who do not abuse these or other substances. For the purpose of this request I will refer to these as Involuntary Tranquilliser Addicts. This group is distinct from illicit drug users for which I do not require information.

The information I require is as follows:

- 1. How many Involuntary Tranquilliser Addict referrals have there been to drug and alcohol services in your local authority since April 2013 for treatment for addiction to benzodiazepine and z drug tranquillisers prescribed by their GPs?**
- 2. How many Involuntary Tranquilliser Addicts are currently in treatment provided by your local authority's drug and alcohol services for addiction to benzodiazepine and z drug tranquillisers prescribed by their GPs?**
- 3. How many Involuntary Tranquilliser Addicts have completed treatment provided by your local authority's drug and alcohol services for treatment for addiction to prescription benzodiazepine and z drug tranquillisers?**
- 4. How many of those who completed treatment had drug free outcomes?**

This information is not routinely captured through the [National Drug Treatment Monitoring System](#) or through our contractual arrangements with providers. Therefore, this letter acts as a refusal notice under section 17.1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 because, in accordance with section 1.1 of the Act, this information is not held by Leicester City Council.

We would advise you to make your request directly to the commissioned services which are: [Leicester Recovery Partnership](#) and [The Criminal Justice Drug Team](#).

The legislation allows you to use the information supplied for your own personal use, or for journalistic purposes. If the information is a dataset (which does not relate to the environment), you may also use the information for commercial re-use under an [Open Government Licence](#).

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request please write to:

Information Governance Manager
Leicester City Council
Bosworth House
Ground Floor
9 – 15 Princess Road West
LEICESTER LE1 6TH
e-mail: info.requests@leicester.gov.uk

Your request for internal review should be submitted to the above address within 40 (forty) working days of receipt by you of this response. Any such request received after this time will only be considered at the Council's absolute discretion.

You may also seek independent advice from the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow SK9 5AF
Telephone: 01625 545 700
www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk

Please be aware that the Information Commissioner does not normally consider requests until the internal appeals process of the Council has been exhausted. You are therefore advised to appeal to the Information Governance Manager before contacting the Commissioner.