

Dear,

**Re: Freedom of Information Act 2000  
Antidepressant Prescriptions**

Thank you for your information request indicated in bold below, which has now been considered under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 by NHS Cheshire & Merseyside Integrated Care Board (ICB). I am able to provide you with the following information and responses.

Please note from 01 July 2022, Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) were disestablished, and their statutory functions and responsibilities inherited by NHS Cheshire and Merseyside ICB.

**Your Request:**

**1) The numbers total of patients who have been prescribed antidepressants in the each of the years 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 so far.**

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 so far
Total patients prescribed antidepressants						

**2) The number of patients under the age of 18 who have been prescribed antidepressants in each of the same years.**

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 so far
Total patients under 18 prescribed antidepressants						

**3) The total number of patients under the age of 18 prescribed each of the following types of antidepressants in each of the same years**

	Under 18s 2018	Under 18s 2019	Under 18s 2020	Under 18s 2021	Under 18s 2022	Under 18s 2023 so far
SSRIs						
SNRIs						
NASSAs						
TCAs						
SARIs						
MAOIs						

**4) The number of patients under 18 who have been prescribed antidepressants in each of the same years, specifically as part of the treatment of Obsessive Compulsive Disorder and related symptoms.**

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 so far
Total patients under 18 prescribed antidepressants as part of treatment for OCD						

***Antidepressants in this instance refers to any of the following classifications of drugs: SSRIs, SNRIs, NASSAs, TCAs, SARIs, MAOIs.***

**Our Response:**

1 – 4) Please be advised that NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB does not hold prescribing data for the antidepressant medications listed in your request between 2018 and 2023 (to date).

You may wish to redirect your request for this information to the NHS Business Services Authority (BSA) who hold prescribing and dispensing data and can be contacted for Freedom of Information requests via: [nhsbsa.foirequests@nhs.net](mailto:nhsbsa.foirequests@nhs.net).

Additionally, you may also wish to visit the Open Prescribing website which hosts some publicly available information on prescribing data and can be accessed via: <https://openprescribing.net/>

**Your Request:**

**5) The number of patients under 18 who have begun Talking Therapies ('psychotherapy') in each of the same years.**

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 so far
Total patients under 18 begun talking therapies						

***Antidepressants in this instance refers to any of the following classifications of drugs: SSRIs, SNRIs, NASSAs, TCAs, SARIs, MAOIs.***

**Our Response:**

5) NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB does not hold information on the number of patients under the age of 18 who began talking therapies/psychotherapy in each of the years 2018 to 2023 (to date).

You may wish to redirect your request for this information to the commissioned providers of Children & Young People (CYP) talking therapies which are listed below along with their contact details:

*Cheshire & Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust*  
[cwp.foi@nhs.net](mailto:cwp.foi@nhs.net)

*Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust*  
[FOI@merseycare.nhs.uk](mailto:FOI@merseycare.nhs.uk)

*Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust*  
[FOI@merseycare.nhs.uk](mailto:FOI@merseycare.nhs.uk)

*Listening Ear*  
<https://listening-ear.co.uk/contact/>

*Kooth*  
[media@kooth.com](mailto:media@kooth.com)

*Mental Health Matters*  
[info@mh.m.org.uk](mailto:info@mh.m.org.uk)

*Everyturn Mental Health (previously Insight IAPT)*  
[enquiries@everyturn.org](mailto:enquiries@everyturn.org)

Should you require any further information or clarification regarding this response or do not feel that your request has been answered as you would expect, please contact us to discuss.

We also wish to take this opportunity to inform you that, where you are not satisfied with the response to your request for information, a formal complaints and internal review process is available.

This can be formally requested by emailing [foi@cheshireandmerseyside.nhs.uk](mailto:foi@cheshireandmerseyside.nhs.uk) and must be done within a reasonable time period (3 calendar months) from the date this response was issued.

Where you remain dissatisfied with our review under the Freedom of Information Act or the Environmental Information Regulations, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioners Office (ICO) for a review of your appeal decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted our complaints procedure. The ICO can be contacted at;

*The Information Commissioner's Office*  
*Wycliffe House*  
*Water Lane*  
*Wilmslow*  
*Cheshire*  
*SK9 5AF*  
[www.ico.gov.uk](http://www.ico.gov.uk)

Should you need any further clarification or assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us quoting the above FOI reference.