

Ref. No: 0889
Date: 25/04/24
Subject: Drug Use

REQUEST

1. **Statistics showing the number of people, under the age of 30, who have used ketamine, from 2019-2023/4 (annual breakdown).**
2. **Statistics showing the number of people in the UK, under the age of 30, who have used opioids from 2019-2023/4 (annual breakdown).**
3. **Statistics showing the number of people in the UK, under the age of 30, who have been treated for the effects of ketamine from 2019-2023/4 (annual breakdown).**
4. **Statistics showing the number of people in the UK, under the age of 30, who have been treated for the effects of opioids from 2019-2023/4 (annual breakdown).**
5. **Statistics showing the number of people in the UK, under the age of 30, who have died from using ketamine between 2019 and 2024 (annual breakdown).**
6. **Statistics showing the number of people in the UK, under the age of 30, who have died from taking opioids (annual breakdown).**

RESPONSE

St Helens and Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust and Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust became a single legal entity known as Mersey and West Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust on 1st July 2023, as such parts of the response may be provided in two sections relating to the hospital sites of each of the legacy organisations.

1. **Statistics showing the number of people, under the age of 30, who have used ketamine, from 2019-2023/4 (annual breakdown).**

St Helens and Knowsley:

The Statutory Information team can only provide information for a patient who has had an inpatient stay and diagnosis of 'Mental and behavioural

disorders due to use of opioids’ or ‘Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of sedatives or hypnotics (Ketamine)’. The Statutory Information team cannot state this is the reason the patient was admitted.

Year	No. Attendances
2019	8
2020	11
2021	14
2022	21
2023	63
2024*	33
*January to March 2024	

Southport and Ormskirk:

Accident and Emergency Department attendances with ketamine mentioned in the presenting complaint:

Financial Year	No. Attendances
2019/20	<5
2020/21	<5
2021/22	<5
2022/23	6
2023/24	14

Section 40: personal information

We are unable to provide precise figures when those figures refer to individuals in volumes of 5 or less due to the risk that individuals will be re-identified, as we are required to protect their identity under the General Data Protection Regulations & Data Protection Act 2018. In such circumstances Section 40(2) and Section 40(3) of the Freedom of Information Act apply. In this case, our view is that disclosure would breach the first data protection principle which states that personal data should be processed “lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner”. It is the lawful aspect of this principle which, in our view, would be breached by disclosure, and in such circumstances, Section 40 confers an absolute exemption on disclosure.

- 2. Statistics showing the number of people in the UK, under the age of 30, who have used opioids in 2023/4 (annual breakdown).**

St Helens and Knowsley:

The Statutory Information team can only provide information for a patient who has had an inpatient stay and diagnosis of ‘Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of opioids’ or ‘Mental and behavioural disorders due

to use of sedatives or hypnotics (Ketamine)'. The Statutory Information team cannot state this is the reason the patient was admitted.

Year	No. Attendances
2019	27
2020	20
2021	13
2022	17
2023	16
2024*	<5
*January to March 2024	

Section 40: personal information

Please note <5 has been added where the number of individuals is 5 or less, this information has been redacted to protect the confidentiality of individuals and to ensure they cannot be identified.

Southport and Ormskirk:

Nil

- 3. Statistics showing the number of people in the UK, under the age of 30, who have been treated for the effects of ketamine from 2019-2023/4 (annual breakdown).**

St Helens and Knowsley:

Section 12: cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit

We would need to undertake a manual review of patient records to provide a response, and we estimate that this would exceed the appropriate time limit.

Under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act, Mersey and West Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust does not have to comply with a request where it is estimated that the cost of compliance would exceed the appropriate limit of £450. The appropriate limit is specified within the regulations and represents the estimated cost of one person spending 2½ working days answering the request, either wholly or partially.

Southport and Ormskirk:

Accident and Emergency Department attendances with ketamine intoxication / withdrawal listed as the chief complaint:

Financial Year	No. Attendances
2019/20	<5

2020/21	<5
2021/22	<5
2022/23	<5
2023/24	<5

Section 40: personal information

Please note <5 has been added where the number of individuals is 5 or less, this information has been redacted to protect the confidentiality of individuals and to ensure they cannot be identified.

- 4. Statistics showing the number of people in the UK, under the age of 30, who have been treated for the effects of opioids from 2019-2023/4 (annual breakdown).**

St Helens and Knowsley:

Please see response to question 3.

Southport and Ormskirk:

Nil

- 5. Statistics showing the number of people in the UK, under the age of 30, who have died from using ketamine between 2019 and 2024 (annual breakdown).**

The Trust does not hold this information, and the query will need re-directing to the Coroner's Office.

- 6. Statistics showing the number of people in the UK, under the age of 30, who have died from taking opioids (annual breakdown).**

The Trust does not hold this information, and the query will need re-directing to the Coroner's Office.