



Medicines & Healthcare products
Regulatory Agency

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United Kingdom
[gov.uk/mhra](https://www.gov.uk/mhra)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

25 May 2023

FOI 23/338

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your information request, dated 12 May 2023, where you asked for:

"I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding the number of prosecutions and enforcement actions for the misuse of supply of Tramadol.

Specifically, I would like to request the following information:

- 1. The number of prosecutions undertaken for the misuse of supply of Tramadol between January 1, 2018, to present.*
- 2. The number of enforcement actions undertaken in relation to Tramadol between January 1, 2018, to present.*

For the purposes of this request, "enforcement actions" should be taken to mean any regulatory or enforcement action, including but not limited to, warnings, cautions, seizures, and prosecutions.

Please may I receive the information in an Excel format. I understand that under the Freedom of Information Act, I am entitled to receive a response within 20 working days of your receipt of this request. If you require any clarification or further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

We confirm that we hold information in scope of your request.

The MHRA Criminal Enforcement Unit have five active investigations concerning allegations of the supply of class C drugs (Tramadol and others). As these



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investigations are live we are unable to supply detailed information and we are withholding this under Section 30 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act.

Section 30 (1) states:

30 –(1) Information held by a public authority is exempt information if it has at any time been held by the authority for the purpose of –

(a) any investigation which the public authority has a duty to conduct with a view to it being ascertained –

(i) whether a person should be charged with an offence, or

(ii) whether a person charged with an offence is guilty of it,

Section 30 is a qualified exemption, which means that we have considered the public interest in releasing the information you have requested. We do recognise that there is considerable interest in the work which we undertake to enforce the regulations relating to medicines and medical devices. However, with that said we do not consider that the public interest is best served by releasing information which could prejudice any potential legal action taken that we may pursue.

I am pleased to provide you with the information requested, please see below.

1. The MHRA Criminal Enforcement Unit has undertaken eight prosecutions involving tramadol that are either awaiting judicial outcome or have been dealt with since 2018.
2. Working with partners in Border Force, since January 1, 2018 a total of 736 seizures have been made of medicines of various types that included Tramadol. The volume of Tramadol in these seizures amounts to 1,793,450 doses.

Border Force may hold additional information on the volume of all Tramadol seizures.

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If you have a query about the information provided, please reply to this email

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date you receive this response and addressed to: info@mhra.gov.uk

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.



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If you were to remain dissatisfied with the outcome of the internal review, you would have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Please bear in mind that the Information Commissioner will not normally review our handling of your request unless you have first contacted us to conduct an internal review. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely,

Criminal Enforcement Unit - Bureau Team Leader

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