



Medicines & Healthcare products
Regulatory Agency

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

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

21 May 2024

MHRA reference: FOI2024/00048

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your information request, which we received on 22 April. You asked for:

Please can I have:

A list of the 10 medicines most seized by total quantity in 2023 (*medicines or the names of what they were purporting to be, if they were counterfeit)
Subtotal quantities for each of the top 10 (i.e. 100 vials of botulinum toxin)
Subtotals of the largest single seizures in MHRA operations, including product type and quantity seized (i.e. so I could calculate the single biggest seizure of X)*

The total estimated market value of the top 10 most seized medicines/counterfeits - with subtotals for each

We have dealt with your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

We confirm that we hold the information you have asked for, and we are disclosing this information in full.

This information is provided below.

The MHRA enforces the Human Medicines Regulations 2012 on behalf of the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care. We have interpreted this request as an enquiry about seizures of unauthorised medicines which are medicinal products for human use in respect of which no marketing authorisation has been granted by a relevant licensing authority. This includes 'falsified' medicines - fake medicines that



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mimic real products. Unauthorised medicines represent a risk to public health because they may not meet the UK's standards for safety, quality, and efficacy.

The MHRA holds the following information on the 10 unauthorised medicines most frequently seized by the MHRA and its law enforcement partners in 2023.

Medicine	Dose	Estimated market value (£)
Sildenafil	2,635,835	6,220,571
Pregabalin	2,072,528	4,891,166
Zopiclone	2,046,007	4,828,576
Tramadol	720,083	1,699,396
Alprazolam	627,047	1,479,831
Tadalafil	507,356	1,197,360
Temazepam	363,806	858,582
Diazepam	355,708	839,471
Morphine	247,808	584,827
Clomifene	222,331	524,701
TOTAL	9,798,509	23,124,481

In 2023, the largest single seizure of Sildenafil was of 791,400 doses with an estimated market value £1,867,704.

We hope this information is useful for you.

This concludes our response to your request.

If you have a query about this response, please contact us at

Please remember to quote the reference number at the top of this letter in any future communications. Details of your appeal rights are below.

Yours sincerely,



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Criminal Enforcement

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Appeal rights

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

If you remain dissatisfied with the outcome of the internal review, you 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 a request unless the requester has first asked us to conduct an internal review.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted through their online webform at: <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/foi-and-eir-complaints/foi-and-eir-complaints/>

Or in writing to: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF

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