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**Our Ref: FOI 7862**

**Date:** 11<sup>th</sup> April 2018

Dear Sir/ Madam

**Re: Freedom of Information Request**

Further to your recent Freedom of Information request regarding Unlicensed Cannabis Products, please see below our response to your request.

Request:

- Please state the unlicensed cannabis based medical products you have approved for prescription by consultants (on the General Medical Council's specialist register), in your Care Commissioning Group's area on an NHS prescription to their patients. ('Unlicensed' refers to the medicine not having received Market Approval in the UK by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency and it not being listed in Schedule 4 of the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001).
- Please state the number of prescriptions that have been issued for the following cannabis based medical products since 01/11/2018:
  - Nabiximols (Sativex). Product code: PL 18024/0009
  - Cannabidiol (Epidiolex). Product code: N/A.

Response:

St Helens CCG follows the Pan Mersey Medicines Formulary. The Pan Mersey Area Prescribing Committee does not currently recommend the prescribing of Cannabis-based products for medicinal use. Please see <https://www.panmerseyapc.nhs.uk/media/2062/cannabis.pdf?UNLID=688311924201944171727> for further information.

No prescriptions have been issued in the period Nov18 to Jan19 for Sativex or Epidiolex

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 a formal complaints and internal review process is available, which will be managed by a FOI Appeals Officer.

This can be formally requested and must be done within a reasonable period of time (3 calendar months) from the date this response was issued.

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**and**



Where you are not satisfied with the response to a request for information that falls within the Environmental Information Regulations, you should make a representation for a review to FOI Appeals Officer, [sthelensccg.foi@nhs.net](mailto:sthelensccg.foi@nhs.net) within 40 days of receipt of the response.

If you are not satisfied 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;

ICO, 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 me quoting the above reference.

Yours sincerely,



**Angela Delea**  
**Associate Director – Corporate Governance**  
**NHS St Helens Clinical Commissioning Group**