



foi.request@mhra.gov.uk.

[MHRA Website](#)

Our Ref: **FOI2026/00399**

12 May 2026

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (FOI) request received on 14 April 2026. You wrote:

I would like to know the percentage of people in the UK that suffer from pain?

How many of this percentage take over the counter medication?

How many of the pain percentage take medication relief regularly on perscription?

Out of 10 how much do the anti-pain medication help with the pain?

What is the statistics to each individual medication that is available in the UK?

I would be grateful if you can provide as much information as you have available.

MHRA Response

MHRA is the UK medicines regulator. This means that we authorise medicinal products for use in specific indications in the UK. More information on what we do is available via the below link:

[About us - Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency - GOV.UK](#)

Regarding your specific questions, please see our responses below.

I would like to know the percentage of people in the UK that suffer from pain?

MHRA does not hold information specifically about the number of people in the UK that suffer from pain. You may want to refer this question to another government body, such as NHS England or the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), who may hold information relevant to this request.

How many of this percentage take over the counter medication?

MHRA does not hold information specifically on the number of people that take over-the-counter medication for pain. You may want to refer this question to another government body, such as NHS England or the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), who may hold information relevant to this request.

How many of the pain precentage take medication relief regularly on perscription?

MHRA does not hold information specifically on the percentage of people that take prescription medicine for pain. You may want to refer this question to another government body, such as NHS England or the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), who may hold information relevant to this request.

Out of 10 how much do the anti-pain medication help with the pain?

MHRA does not hold information on how much pain medication helps as a score out of ten. All medicines authorised by MHRA need to show that they have efficacy and are safe, which is shown through the benefit/risk assessment done by MHRA.

Information explaining the benefit/risk for all medicines authorised by MHRA is available through the Summary of Product Characteristics (SmPC), Patient Information Leaflet (PIL) and Public Assessment Report (PAR) that are published for each medicine on our products portal. A link to this is provided below:

[MHRA Products | Home](#)

What is the statistics to each individual medication that is available in the UK?

We do not understand what is meant by “the statistics for each individual medication that is available in the UK.” If you require information on why a specific medicine is authorised for use for specific indications in the UK, please refer to the SmPC, PIL and/or PAR for that medicinal product on the MHRA Products Portal, which we have linked above.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact us quoting the reference number above.

Yours sincerely,

MHRA Central Freedom of Information Team
Medicines & Healthcare products Regulatory Agency

Your right to complain under the Freedom of Information Act

If you are not happy with this response you may request an internal review by e-mailing foi.request@mhra.gov.uk or by writing to: MHRA Central Freedom of Information Team, 10 South, Colonnade, Canary Wharf, London, E14 4PU

Any request for an internal review must be received by us within 40 working days of the date of this letter. Please note we are not obliged to provide a review if it is requested after more than 40 working days.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner’s Office for a decision. Generally, the Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted our own complaints procedure. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: The Information Commissioner’s Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF.

Website: [ICO FOI and EIR complaints](#) or telephone 0303 123 1113.

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