

Dear

ATISN 27274 – Medicine Shortages in Wales

Thank you for your request to Welsh Government for information received on 29 July 2026 related to medicines shortages affecting Wales, regarding co-codamol 30/500mg, other co-codamol preparations, blood-pressure medications, and wider concurrent UK-wide shortages.

You provided clarification on 05 August in which you broadened your request to cover all medicines included in the Welsh Government's own published shortage lists or monitoring dashboards between 01 January 2025 to 29 July 2026.

You have requested the following information:

Please provide copies of all information prepared for Welsh Ministers or senior officials concerning shortages of the listed medicines

Please provide copies of all information issued by Welsh Government to NHS Wales organisations, prescribers, pharmacists, or Health Boards concerning shortages of the listed medicines

Please provide copies of all information contained within corporate, programme-level, or operational risk assessments or risk-register entries that specifically refer to shortages of the listed medicines

Please provide copies of all information held by Welsh Government contained within correspondence with DHSC, MHRA, wholesalers, or manufacturers concerning shortages of the listed medicines

Please provide copies of any information used by Welsh Government to monitor the availability of the listed medicines

As drafted, your request remains broad in scope and engaged Section 12 FOIA (cost of compliance) and potentially regulation 12(4)(b) EIR (manifestly unreasonable by virtue of burden) where applicable.

We have considered your revised request and undertaken an initial assessment. Welsh Government published 64 shortage letters in 2025, plus a further 29 this year. As you have asked for *"Any medicines included in Welsh Government's own published shortage lists or monitoring dashboards during the timeframe"*, this will mean 93. These shortages letters are all publicly available here: <https://www2.nphs.wales.nhs.uk/contacts.nsf>.

However, in order to retrieve and extract all information relating to each of the 93 shortages, we would need to review in excess of 3,658 records, and we have estimated this taking at least 61 hours. Your request remains broader in scope than the original formulation, we estimate that compliance would still exceed the appropriate limit because of the volume of information, particularly correspondence with external bodies and operational monitoring records.

Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit. Regulation 3 of the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 sets out that the appropriate limit is £600. Regulation 4(4) states that the cost of the time which you expect to spend dealing with the request must be estimated at a rate of £25 per hour. This means that the request would exceed the appropriate limit if complying would take more than 24 hours of work. Therefore, on this basis, we are unable to provide this information as it would exceed the appropriate limit.

You may wish to submit a revised request. If you do, can I suggest that rather than ask for all information on a subject you focus your request onto the specific information or specific medication you require. It may help focus your request if you set out the question(s) you want an answer to or what it is you want to understand.

Any revised request will be treated as a new request.

We have previously provided a link to where you will be able to find information regarding [Medicines Shortages](#) on the Welsh Governments site.

However, they are all publicly available here: <https://www2.nphs.wales.nhs.uk/contacts.nsf>

Next Steps

If you are dissatisfied with the Welsh Government's handling of your request, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to the Welsh Government's Freedom of Information Officer at:

Information Rights Unit
Welsh Government
Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ
or Email: Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales

Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number above.

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

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

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely,