

[REDACTED]

Date 5 May 2026
Your Ref FOI-2026-3328
Our Ref FOI-2026-3328

Enquiries to [REDACTED]
Email psd.foi@nhs.scot

Dear [REDACTED]

Freedom of Information Reference FOI-2026-3328

I refer to your Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA) request that we received on 02 April 2026 requesting the following information:

Details of guidance issued to NHS Boards advising them to no longer prescribe Apremilast (and or Otezla) for dispensing via community pharmacies and for supply to patients to be made via other routes.

Details of what routes have to be used for supply to patients i.e. Hospital or Home Care

Details of the cost analysis carried out to make this recommendation

What is the annual or total contract value - please provide an exact figure or a cost range/band if exact values cannot be disclosed?

How many patients in Scotland currently are prescribed Apremilast

Details of any contracts to supply appremilast to include:

**Name of supplier
Value of contract
Cost per pack of Apremilast.**

We have now completed the search of our records and can provide you with the following information, it is worth noting we have re-ordered the way in which we have answered your request so it is clearer:

Otezla (Amgen Ltd) is the originator brand of Apremilast. Apremilast lost market exclusivity in January 2026 and multiple generic medicine suppliers launched generic equivalent products. A National Framework (reference NP494) for the supply of this medicine went into effect on 1st February 2026.

Chair Mr Keith Redpath
Chief Executive Professor Karen Reid

Name of suppliers

Four suppliers were awarded on to that Framework (Accord-UK Ltd, Celix Pharma Ltd, Thornton & Ross Limited, and TEVA UK Limited).

Value of Contract

The value of the Framework across its forty-eight-month total duration was estimated as £663,520 (or £165,880 per annum). This is publicly available on the UK Government Find a Tender Service via the following link (Lot 5): [NP49425 Generic and Biosimilar Transition Medicines - Find a Tender](#). Note, the scope of the Framework is secondary care dispensing locations (hospital pharmacies and NHS commissioned medicines homecare providers); community pharmacies are not within scope of the Framework.

Cost per pack of Apremilast

Under the [Section 33\(1\)\(b\) FOISA exemption for "Substantial prejudice to commercial interests"](#) Public Services Delivery Scotland (PSD Scotland) has determined that information on the cost per pack of Apremilast in secondary care is exempt from being shared. This exemption applies where disclosure of the information would, or would be likely to, prejudice substantially the commercial interests of any person or organisation, including public authorities. In this case, releasing the information could:

- Undermine the competitive position of the organisation concerned.
- Reveal commercially sensitive strategies, pricing, or operational details.
- Harm ongoing or future negotiations or contracts.

We recognise that there is a public interest in transparency and accountability. However, on balance, we consider that the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosure, due to the potential for substantial harm to commercial interests.

How many patients in Scotland currently are prescribed Apremilast

Under the [Section 17 FOISA exemption for "Information not held"](#) PSD Scotland does not hold information on the total number of patients in Scotland that are prescribed Apremilast. You may wish to contact Public Health Scotland or the individual Health Boards (HBs) as they may be able to provide the requested information, email addresses are as follows:

Public Health Scotland	PHS.FOI@phs.scot
NHS Ayrshire & Arran	foi@aaht.scot.nhs.uk
NHS Borders	foi.enquiries@borders.scot.nhs.uk
NHS Dumfries & Galloway	dg.feedback2@nhs.scot
NHS Fife	fife.foirequestfife@nhs.scot
NHS Forth Valley	fv.freedomofinformation@nhs.scot
NHS Grampian	gram.foi@nhs.scot
NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde	foi@ggc.scot.nhs.uk
NHS Highland	nhsh.foirequestshighland@nhs.scot
NHS Lanarkshire	foi@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk

NHS Lothian	loth.freedomofinformation@nhs.scot
NHS Orkney	ORK.FOIrequests@nhs.scot
NHS Shetland	shet.foi@nhs.scot
NHS Tayside	tay.foisa@nhs.scot
NHS Western Isles	wi.infogov-wihb@nhs.scot
NHS Golden Jubilee	FOI@gjnh.scot.nhs.uk
The State Hospital	TSH.FOI-Mailbox@nhs.scot

Details of guidance issued to NHS Boards advising them to no longer prescribe Apremilast (and or Otezla) for dispensing via community pharmacies and for supply to patients to be made via other routes.

**Details of what routes have to be used for supply to patients i.e. Hospital or Home Care
Details of the cost analysis carried out to make this recommendation**

It is for individual HBs to determine the dispensing route for individual medicines. Leading up to Apremilast losing exclusivity and generic equivalents being available, National Procurement (NP) part of PSD Scotland highlighted to HBs that there was a significant financial risk that once generic medicines launched, the cost to the NHS of Apremilast being dispensed via community pharmacies had the potential to be significantly higher than if the medicine was dispensed via secondary care dispensing routes (hospital pharmacy or medicines homecare). The price of the medicine in secondary care would be determined by a competitive tender process and the price fixed through the Framework that went into effect on 1st February 2026. Given the level of competition, discounts of greater than 90% off list price in secondary care were forecast.

There are different arrangements for the pricing of medicines supplied by community pharmacies; community pharmacy owners are responsible for sourcing medicines and the Scottish Government sets the reimbursement arrangements which are set out in the [Scottish Drug Tariff](#). The financial risk flagged to HBs was that it may not be possible to set a Drug Tariff reimbursement price that fairly reflected the market price of generics. There is uncertainty on whether community pharmacies will be able to access prices in line with hospitals and limitations in access to information on actual community pharmacy purchase prices to support setting a fair Drug Tariff reimbursement price. This risk was estimated to have a potential impact on NHS Scotland of over £5m per annum (which is the difference between the value of primary care usage in 2025 at list price and the value if the product was purchased at the forecast discounted contract price through a secondary care supply route). Given the scale of the financial risk, advice was issued to HBs to consider repatriation of Apremilast dispensing to secondary care supply routes (hospital dispensing or homecare).

An update was provided to HBs on 31st March 2026 to inform them that the Scottish Government had confirmed that Apremilast would be added to Part 7 of the Scottish Drug Tariff with effect 1st April 2026. HBs were provided with the confirmed Scottish Drug Tariff reimbursement price, the best value secondary care contract price and an indication of typical supplier list prices. HBs were also provided with a forecast of the cost of continuing to supply Apremilast via community pharmacies (at the confirmed Drug Tariff price) compared with the cost of supply via secondary care supply routes (at the Framework price).

The table below provides information on the Scottish Drug Tariff Reimbursement price in April 2026 and an indication of typical supplier list prices.

Product	Scottish Drug Tariff Reimbursement Price	Typical Supplier List Prices
Apremilast 30mg tablets 56 tablet	£96.25	£450 - £550
Apremilast 10mg/20mg/30mg tablets treatment initiation pack 27 tablet	£86.18	£240 - £260

The tables below provide information on the number of packs of Apremilast dispensed by community pharmacies in Scotland in the calendar year 2025 and an indication of what the total spend would have been if pharmacies had been reimbursed at the April 2026 Drug Tariff price.

Apremilast 30mg

Health Board	Number of Packs dispensed by community pharmacies in 2025	Total Annual Spend if this number of packs had been reimbursed at the Drug Tariff Price
NHS A&A	861	£82,895
NHS BORDERS	195	£18,789
NHS D&G	357	£34,327
NHS FIFE	53	£5,122
NHS FORTH VALLEY	506	£48,732
NHS GRAMPIAN	1,832	£176,306
NHS GG&C	5,108	£491,681
NHS HIGHLAND	810	£78,000
NHS LANARKSHIRE	872	£83,920
NHS Lothian	47	£4,524
NHS ORKNEY	3	£289
NHS SHETLAND	27	£2,599
NHS TAYSIDE	121	£11,662
NHS WI	51	£4,909
Grand Total	10,844	£1,043,754

Apremilast Initiation Pack

Health Board	Number of Packs dispensed by community pharmacies in 2025	Total Annual Spend if this number of packs had been reimbursed at the Drug Tariff Price
NHS BORDERS	6	£517
NHS D&G	11	£948
NHS FIFE	3	£259
NHS FV	17	£1,465
NHS GRAMPIAN	87	£7,498
NHS GG&C	127	£10,945
NHS HIGHLAND	5	£431
NHS LANARKSHIRE	16	£1,379
NHS TAYSIDE	1	£86
Grand Total	273	£23,527

Under [Section 33\(1\)\(b\) of FOISA](#) PSD Scotland has determined that information on the contract price and the estimated cost to the NHS if the volume of usage dispensed via community pharmacies in 2025 was reimbursed at the secondary care contract price is exempt from being shared. This exemption applies where disclosure of the information would, or would be likely to, prejudice substantially the commercial interests of any person or organisation, including public authorities. In this case, releasing the information could:

- Undermine the competitive position of the organisation concerned.
- Reveal commercially sensitive strategies, pricing, or operational details.
- Harm ongoing or future negotiations or contracts.

We recognise that there is a public interest in transparency and accountability. However, on balance, we consider that the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosure, due to the potential for substantial harm to commercial interests.

Whilst we cannot share precise details of secondary care contract pricing due to commercial sensitivities, we can share that the estimated cost to NHS Scotland is over £500k more if established usage of Apremilast via community pharmacies was at the April 2026 Drug Tariff price compared to the cost if the same volume of usage was supplied via a secondary care supply route (hospital or NHS commissioned homecare provider) at the best value secondary care contract price (taking into consideration differences in the VAT arrangements).

From 1 April 2026, NSS and NHS Education for Scotland (NES) joined to form PSD Scotland, enabling transformation in health, social care, and the wider public sector. More information regarding PSD Scotland can be found at the following URL:

[Public Services Delivery Scotland \(PSD Scotland\)](#)

I trust you will find the information of assistance and, if you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me using the email address psd.foi@nhs.scot.

If you are unhappy with any aspect of how we have dealt with your request, you can make representations to us asking us to review the handling of your request. Please write to the Associate Director Corporate Governance using the email address psd.foi@nhs.scot within 40 working days of the date of this correspondence.

If after a review you are still unhappy, you also have the right to apply to the Scottish Information Commissioner, who can be contacted at Kinburn Castle, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS, or via their [online Appeal form](#).

Yours sincerely,

