Question:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I am requesting information regarding reports of unlawful possession and the sale of GLP-1 weight-loss medications in Northern Ireland and the number of convictions.
Specifically, I would like to request the following information covering the period from **1 January 2025 to 1 March 2026** (or the most recent period for which data is available):

1. The **number of reports, complaints, or recorded incidents** received by the Department of Health relating to the **unlawful possession, supply, or sale of GLP-1 weight-loss medications**.
2. If available, a **breakdown of these reports by month**.
3. The **types of GLP-1 medications referenced in these reports** (for example semaglutide, liraglutide, tirzepatide, or related products), where such detail is recorded.
4. The **number of cases that were referred to enforcement or regulatory bodies**, such as the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), Trading Standards, or other relevant authorities.

If the Department does not hold this information directly, I would be grateful if you could advise which public body may hold the relevant data.

Response:

You requested information regarding reports of unlawful possession and the sale of GLP-1 weight-loss medications in Northern Ireland and the number of convictions.
You further specifically requested the following additional information covering the period from **1 January 2025 to 1 March 2026** (or the most recent period for which data is available):

1. The **number of reports, complaints, or recorded incidents** received by the Department of Health relating to the **unlawful possession, supply, or sale of GLP-1 weight-loss medications.**
2. If available, a **breakdown of these reports by month.**
3. The **types of GLP-1 medications referenced in these reports** (for example semaglutide, liraglutide, tirzepatide, or related products), where such detail is recorded.
4. The **number of cases that were referred to enforcement or regulatory bodies,** such as the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), Trading Standards, or other relevant authorities.

I have now had an opportunity to consider your request and can provide the following information in respect of the overall period 1 January 2025 to date (please note that monthly returns are not available).

During the period 1 January 2025 to date, the Department has received 22 reports, **complaints, or has recorded incidents** relating to the **unlawful possession, supply or sale of GLP-1 weight-loss medications.** The Department has conducted corresponding investigations in respect of these matters, resulting in four convictions and a further six prosecution cases are currently pending.

The **types of GLP-1 medications referenced in these reports and investigations included** tirzepatide, semaglutide and retatrutide.

The Human Medicines Regulations 2012 provide statutory investigative and enforcement powers to determine whether there has been a contravention of any provision of these Regulations and to inspect or collect evidence as appropriate. The Medicines Regulatory Group (MRG) is statutorily responsible for enforcement of the Regulations in Northern Ireland on behalf of the Department of Health.

Accordingly, all 22 reports, **complaints, or incidents** relating to the **unlawful possession, supply or sale of GLP-1 weight-loss medications** in Northern Ireland during the period 1 January 2025 to date, were (or are) being investigated by MRG, resulting in four convictions with a further six prosecution cases currently pending.

In addition, during this period three referrals have been made to various professional regulators, including the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC), the General Medical Council (GMC) and the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland (PSNI).

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