

Freedom of Information Act Request

Under the Freedom of Information Act, I would like to request the following information:

Q1. Does your trust or health board treat giant cell arteritis (GCA)? If not, please provide the name of the hospital or trust that you refer GCA patients to.

YES

Q2. In the past 3 months, how many patients with a primary diagnosis of GCA (ICD10 codes M31.5 or M31.6) were:

- Admitted as an inpatient
- Treated in A&E

5 Patients Admitted for GCA between 01/02/2025 and 30/04/2025, and 0 treated in A&E

Q3. How many patients were treated by the rheumatology department in the past 3 months with the following:

- Tocilizumab – for any disease **76**
- Tocilizumab for rheumatoid arthritis (RA) only - **Pharmacy doesn't store indication data see exemption 12 below**
- Tocilizumab for giant cell arteritis (GCA) only - **Pharmacy doesn't store indication data see exemption 12 below**

Q4. How many patients were treated by the ophthalmology department (for any disease) in the past 3 months with Tocilizumab? **0**

Q5. How many patients were treated in A&E in the past 3 months for giant cell arteritis (GCA) with Tocilizumab?

I am writing to confirm that DBTH holds the information on the subject you have requested. However, I advise you that we will not be able to answer your request without exceeding the appropriate limit. This is because our pharmacy system doesn't store diagnosis data, so we're unable to determine this against the prescribed treatment. To ascertain this data, the Trust would need to perform an audit of each individual patient record, which wouldn't be achievable within the s.12 timescale of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. . Section 12 of the Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit, We have estimated that it would take more Our Ref: 24 JAN 2025 than 18 hours to carry out a manual search to locate, retrieve, and extract all the information you have requested. In this situation the associated cost would therefore exceed the appropriate fee limit of £450 set out under Freedom of

Our Ref: 319
May 2025

Information & Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2007. The fee limit specified in regulations for NHS trusts represents the cost of one person spending 2½ working days at a rate of £25 per hour determining whether the Trust holds the information sought and then locating, retrieving and extracting that information.

If you are not satisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to request an internal review. Requests for an internal review should be submitted within 40 working days from the date of this response, and should be addressed to d.wraith@nhs.net.

If you remain dissatisfied after the internal review, you have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). The ICO can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Tel: 0303 123 1113
Website: <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/>