

Freedom of Information Act Request

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Question One:

How many patients has your trust treated in the past, The time scale for this would be 1st July to 31st December 2025

(for any disease) with the following drugs:

<i>Drug Name</i>	<i>Patient Numbers</i>
Aubagio (teriflunomide)	0
Avonex (interferon beta-1a)	0
Betaferon (interferon beta-1b)	0
Brabio (glatiramer acetate)	0
Copaxone (glatiramer acetate)	0
Extavia (beta interferon-1b)	0
Gilenya (fingolimod)	0
Kesimpta (ofatumumab)	0
Lemtrada (alemtuzumab)	0
Mavenclad (cladribine)	0
Mayzent (siponimod)	0
Ocrevus (ocrelizumab)	0
Plegridy (peginterferon beta-1a)	0
Ponvory (ponesimod)	0
Rebif (beta interferon-1a)	0
Tecfidera (dimethyl fumarate)	0
Tysabri (natalizumab)	0
Tysabri (natalizumab) Pre-filled syringes only	0
Vumerity (diroximel fumarate)	0
Zeposia (ozanimod)	0
Fingolimod generic	0
Tyruko (Natalizumab Biosimilar)	0
Briumvi (ublituximab)	0

Question Two:

How many patients has your trust treated with Rituximab for MS (Multiple Sclerosis) in the past six months?

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 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 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.

Question Three:

How many patients within your trust have a diagnosis of MS (Multiple Sclerosis)? The time scale for this would be 1st July to 31st December 2025

Based on the Trust's admitted patient records, 55 patients had a diagnosis of Multiple Sclerosis (ICD-10 code G35X) recorded for the first time within the Trust's inpatient data during the period 1 July 2025 to 31 December 2025.

The Trust does not hold information that enables it to identify all patients who have received a first-ever diagnosis of Multiple Sclerosis, as diagnoses may be made:

- In primary care (GP practices),
- At another NHS Trust, or
- By another healthcare provider.

The Trust does not have access to a single, comprehensive dataset that captures diagnoses made outside of its own admitted patient activity. As such, information relating to true first diagnoses of Multiple Sclerosis across all care settings is not held for the purposes of the Freedom of Information Act.

The figure provided therefore represents:

- Patients who were admitted to the Trust during the requested period, and
- Where a diagnosis of G35X (Multiple Sclerosis) was recorded for the first time in the Trust's inpatient records.

This information should not be interpreted as prevalence data, nor as confirmation that these were the patients' first diagnoses at a national or system-wide level.

Our Ref: 78
January 2026

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/>

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