

Ref: FOIA Reference 2018/19-589

Date: 4th February 2019

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 10th January 2019 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding Intra-vitreous vials / Implants.

I can neither confirm nor deny whether the information you have requested is held by the Trust in its entirety. This is because the information requested in your question is not held centrally, but may be recorded in patient health records. In order to confirm whether this information is held we would therefore have to individually access all patient health records within the Trust and extract the information where it is present. We therefore estimate that complying with your request is exempt under section 12 of the FOI Act: *cost of compliance is excessive*. The section 12 exemption applies when it is estimated a request will take in excess of 18 hours to complete. We estimate that accessing and reviewing all health records and then extracting relevant information would take longer than the 18 hours allowed for.

Under section 16 of the FOI Act we are required to provide requestors with advice and assistance where possible. We would therefore like to advise you that if your request is shortened to how many of the vials/ injections were supplied, we are able to comply within the 18 hour time frame. In order to avoid delay to your response we have provided this below.

As of 1st November 2014 University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust (UHNM) manages two hospital sites – Royal Stoke University Hospital, and County Hospital (Stafford). Therefore the response below is for the two sites combined from that date where appropriate.

Q1 I have a Freedom of Information request with regards to Ophthalmology. Within your Trust how many Intra-vitreous vials / Implants have been used in the latest 4 months, if possible between September and December '18. Please state the number of vials dispensed from your pharmacy in this period, if the number of wet AMD is not known, then regardless of reason for use.

	Lucentis (Ranibizumab) Injections	Avastin (Bevacizumab) Injections	Eylea (Aflibercept) Injections	Iluvien (Fluocinolone) Implants	Ozudex (Dexamethasone) Implants
TOTAL Vials / Implants					
Vials / Implants for Wet Age Related Macular					

Degeneration (wAMD)					
Vials / Implants for Diabetic Macular Oedema (DMO), Retinal Vein Occlusion (RVO) or other such as mvnv					

A1 The information below relates to Royal Stoke University Hospital only. University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust (UHNM) do not operate an Ophthalmology service at County Hospital (Stafford)

We are unable to provide some of the information you require in the requested format as to release this data could lead to the identification of the person(s) involved due to the low numbers involved, and would breach the Trusts obligations under Data Protection Act 2018. Accordingly, this aspect of your request is exempt from disclosure under the terms of Section 40(2) of the FOI Act. *Personal information*. However as the Trust is committed to openness and transparency we can band the numbers and have supplied this below.

	Lucentis (Ranibizumab) Injections	Avastin (Bevacizumab) Injections	Eylea (Aflibercept) Injections	Illuvien (Fluocinolone) Implants	Ozudex (Dexamethasone) Implants
TOTAL Vials / Implants	1477	45	556	Less than 5 (section 40 exemption)	7
Vials / Implants for Wet Age Related Macular Degeneration (wAMD)	Section 12 exemption	Section 12 exemption	Section 12 exemption	Section 12 exemption	Section 12 exemption
Vials / Implants for Diabetic Macular Oedema (DMO), Retinal Vein Occlusion (RVO) or other such as mvnv	Section 12 exemption	Section 12 exemption	Section 12 exemption	Section 12 exemption	Section 12 exemption

Please note that pharmacy can identify the total number of each product supplied to ophthalmology patients but cannot confirm that the use is for wet age related macular degeneration as the Trust's pharmacy computer system does not hold diagnostic information: this may be recorded in individual patient notes – section 12 exemption as detailed above.

*Please note that any individuals identified do not give consent for their personal data to be processed for the purposes of direct marketing.

UHNM NHS Trust is a public sector body and governed by EU law. FOI requestors should note that any new Trust requirements over the EU threshold will be subject to these regulations and will be advertised for open competition accordingly.

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An anonymised copy of this request can be found on the Trust's disclosure log, please note that all requests can be found at the following link: <http://www.uhnm.nhs.uk/aboutus/Statutory-Policies-and-Procedures/Pages/Freedom-of-Information-Disclosure-Log.aspx>

This letter confirms the completion of this request. A log of this request and a copy of this letter will be held by the Trust.

If you have any queries related to the response provided please in the first instance contact my office.

Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and request an assessment of the manner in which the Trust has managed your request.

The Information Commissioner may be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF or via www.ico.org.uk.

If following review of the responses I can be of any further assistance please contact my secretary on 01782 676474.

Yours,





**University Hospitals
of North Midlands**
NHS Trust

Leah Carlisle
Deputy Head of Quality, Safety & Compliance

