

Ref: FOIA Reference 2021/22-344

Date: 18<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Email [foi@uhnm.nhs.uk](mailto:foi@uhnm.nhs.uk)

Dear

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 27th September 2021 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding anti-VEGF treatments.

As of 1<sup>st</sup> November 2014 University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust (UHM) 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 am analysing the usage of anti-VEGF treatments for eye conditions. I would greatly appreciate if you could answer the following questions:**

**For the 4-month period from May to August 2021, how many patients has your Trust treated with the following anti-VEGF treatments:**

- **Aflibercept**
- **Bevacizumab**
- **Brolucizumab**
- **Dexamethasone**
- **Fluocinolone acetonide**
- **Ranibizumab**

A1 We are unable to provide 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 as being <5

This exemption is an absolute exemption and therefore no consideration of the public interest test is needed.

- Aflibercept = 783
- Bevacizumab = 44
- Brolucizumab = 0
- Dexamethasone = 23
- Fluocinolone acetonide = <5
- Ranibizumab = 690

**Q2 For the patients above, how many were new to anti-VEGF therapy? Please provide the patient numbers by the treatments listed below, excluding patients who previously had any anti-VEGF therapy.**

- **Aflibercept**
- **Bevacizumab**
- **Brolucizumab**
- **Dexamethasone**
- **Fluocinolone acetonide**
- **Ranibizumab**

A2 We are unable to provide 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 as being <5

This exemption is an absolute exemption and therefore no consideration of the public interest test is needed

- Aflibercept = 223
- Bevacizumab = 22
- Brolucizumab = <5
- Dexamethasone = 6
- Fluocinolone acetonide = <5
- Ranibizumab = 31

**Q3 Within your Trust, how many intra-vitreous injections/implants of each following treatments have been used (for any eye condition) in the four-month period from May to August 2021:**

- **Aflibercept**
- **Bevacizumab**
- **Brolucizumab**
- **Dexamethasone**
- **Ranibizumab**

A3 We are unable to provide 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 as being <5

This exemption is an absolute exemption and therefore no consideration of the public interest test is needed

- Aflibercept = 783
- Bevacizumab = 44
- Brolucizumab = 0
- Dexamethasone = 23
- Fluocinolone acetonide = <5
- Ranibizumab = 690

**Q4 If your Trust is able to identify intra-vitreous injections/implants by eye condition, please provide the number of injections/implants used in the four-month period from May to August 2021 for Wet Age Related Macular Degeneration (wAMD) ONLY**

- **Aflibercept**
- **Bevacizumab**
- **Brolucizumab**
- **Dexamethasone**
- **Ranibizumab**

A4 We are unable to provide 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 Trust's 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 as being <5

This exemption is an absolute exemption and therefore no consideration of the public interest test is needed

- Aflibercept = 0
- Bevacizumab = 0
- Brolucizumab = 0
- Dexamethasone = 0
- Ranibizumab = <5

\*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

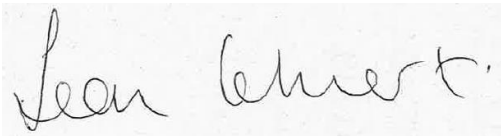
still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and request an assessment of the manner in which the Trust has managed your request.

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](http://www.ico.org.uk).

If following review of the responses I can be of any further assistance please contact my secretary on 01782 671612.

Yours,



Jean Lehnert  
**Data, Security & Protection Manager**