

Ref: FOIA Reference 2023/24-700

Royal Stoke University Hospital
Data, Security and Protection
Newcastle Road
Stoke-on-Trent
Staffordshire
ST4 6QG

Date: 31st January 2024

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 19th December 2023 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding rheumatology

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

- **Admitted as an inpatient**
- **Treated in A&E**

A1 There has been no change to our previous answer therefore: I can confirm that the Trust holds information regarding The question but feel this information is exempt under section 21: *information reasonably accessible by other means*. This is because the information is available via the Trust's public website at the following link: your previous response ref 481-2324 October 2023:

<http://www.uhnm.nhs.uk/about-us/regulatory-information/freedom-of-information-publication-scheme/freedom-of-information-disclosure-log/>

Q2 How many patients were treated by the rheumatology department in the past 3 months with the following:

- **Tocilizumab – for any disease**
- **Tocilizumab for rheumatoid arthritis (RA) only**
- **Tocilizumab for giant cell arteritis (GCA) only**

A2 There has been no change to our previous answer therefore: I can confirm that the Trust holds information regarding The question but feel this information is exempt under section 21: *information reasonably accessible by other means*. This is because the information is available

via the Trust's public website at the following link: your previous response ref 481-2324
October 2023:

<http://www.uhnm.nhs.uk/about-us/regulatory-information/freedom-of-information-publication-scheme/freedom-of-information-disclosure-log/>

Q3 How many patients were treated by the ophthalmology department (for any disease) in the past 3 months with Tocilizumab?

A3 There has been no change to our previous answer therefore: I can confirm that the Trust holds information regarding The question but feel this information is exempt under section 21: *information reasonably accessible by other means*. This is because the information is available via the Trust's public website at the following link: your previous response ref 481-2324
October 2023:

<http://www.uhnm.nhs.uk/about-us/regulatory-information/freedom-of-information-publication-scheme/freedom-of-information-disclosure-log/>

Q4 How many patients were treated in A&E in the past 3 months (for any disease) with Tocilizumab?

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 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.

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

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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.

Yours,



Rachel Montinaro
Data Security and Protection Manager - Records