



Ref: FOIA Reference 2018/19-102

Royal Stoke University Hospital
Quality, Safety and Compliance Department
Newcastle Road
Stoke-on-Trent
Staffordshire
ST4 6QG

Date: 16th May 2018

Tel: 01782 676474
Email foi@uhn.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 14th May 2018 (received into our office 15th May) requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding MS disease modifying drugs.

I can confirm that the information you have requested is held by the Trust, but your request in its entirety is exempt from disclosure under section 12 of the FOI Act: *cost of compliance is excessive*. This is because some of the information requested in your question is not held centrally, but is recorded in individual departmental records. In order to provide this information we would therefore have to individually access all individual departmental records within the Trust and extract the information where it is present. 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 individual departmental 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 we can comply with your request within the 18 hour timeframe if your question is reduced to information for the total number of each product supplied to Neurology specialty patients. In order to avoid further 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 In your Trust how many patients with Multiple Sclerosis have been treated with MS disease modifying drugs in the past 6 months, latest 6 months that you can provide?

Please provide the number of patients by treatment for the following disease modifying drugs.

- **Aubagio (teriflunomide)**
- **Avonex (interferon beta-1a)**
- **Betaferon (interferon beta-1b)**
- **Copaxone (glatiramer acetate)**
- **Glatiramer acetate generic [eg Brabio]**
- **Extavia (beta interferon-1b)**

- Gilenya (fingolimod)
- Lemtrada (alemtuzumab)
- Rebif (beta interferon-1a)
- Tecfidera (dimethyl fumarate)
- Tysabri (natalizumab)
- Ampyra (Fampyra)
- Peginterferon beta-1a (Plegridy)
- Daclizumab (Zinbryta)
- Cladribine (Mavenclad)
- Others

A1 Please see below: Please note that pharmacy can identify the total number of each product supplied to Neurology speciality patients but cannot confirm that the use is for Multiple Sclerosis 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.

Aubagio (teriflunomide)	19
Avonex (interferon beta-1a)	96
Betaferon (interferon beta-1b)	3
Copaxone (glatiramer acetate)	0
Glatiramer acetate generic [eg Brabio]	69
Extavia (beta interferon-1b)	0
Gilenya (fingolimod)	70
Lemtrada (alemtuzumab)	36
Rebif (beta interferon-1a)	0
Tecfidera (dimethyl fumarate)	147
Tysabri (natalizumab)	255
Ampyra (Fampyra)	0
Peginterferon beta-1a (Plegridy)	46
Daclizumab (Zinbryta)	0
Cladribine (Mavenclad)	0

*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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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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized loop at the top and a horizontal line at the bottom.

Mojgan Casillas
Interim Information Governance Manager