



Ref: FOIA Reference 2020/21-522

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

Date: 1st March 2021

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 15th February 2021 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding anti-VEFG treatments for eye conditions.

The University Hospitals of North Midlands Trust is committed to the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

However, the NHS is facing unprecedented challenges relating to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic at the current time. Understandably, our resources have been diverted to support our front-line colleagues who are working tremendously hard to provide care for our patients, and to those in need of our services.

We strive to be transparent and to work with an open culture. But at this time, whilst care of our patients and the safety of our staff takes precedent, it is likely that responses to some requests for information will be delayed. We apologise for this position in advance, and will endeavour to provide you with as much information as we can, as soon as we are able.

The Information Commissioners Office has recognised the current situation in the NHS

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 am analysing the usage of anti-VEFG treatments for eye conditions. I would greatly appreciate if you could answer three questions:

For the 4-month period from September to December 2020, 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 = 512
- Bevacizumab = 42
- Brolucizumab = 0
- Dexamethasone = 10
- Fluocinolone acetonide = <5
- Ranibizumab = 815

Q2 **Within your Trust how many intra-vitreous injections/implants of each of the following treatments have been used in the four-month period from September to December 2020?**

- **Aflibercept**
- **Bevacizumab**
- **Brolucizumab**
- **Dexamethasone**
- **Fluocinolone**
- **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 = 1046
- Bevacizumab = 79
- Brolucizumab = 0
- Dexamethasone = 10
- Fluocinolone = <5
- Ranibizumab = 1953

Q3 **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 September to December 2020 for each of the following conditions:
Wet Age Related Macular Degeneration (wAMD)**

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

Diabetic Macular Oedema (DMO)

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

Retinal Vein Occlusion - Central (CRVO) or Branch (BRVO)

- **Aflibercept**
- **Bevacizumab**
- **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.

Wet Age Related Macular Degeneration (wAMD)

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

Diabetic Macular Oedema (DMO)

- Aflibercept 11
- Bevacizumab 24
- Dexamethasone 0
- Ranibizumab 7

Retinal Vein Occlusion - Central (CRVO) or Branch (BRVO)

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

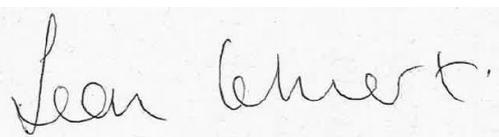
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and 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 671612.

Yours,





**University Hospitals
of North Midlands**
NHS Trust

Jean Lehnert
Data, Security & Protection Manager

