



University Hospitals
of North Midlands
NHS Trust

Ref: FOIA Reference 2021/22-065

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

Date: 14th June 2021

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 30th April 2021 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding the treatment of neurology patients

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

On 12th May 2021 we contacted you via email as we required the following clarification:

We require clarification on Q3, The conditions you are referring to do not have cure nor a specific treatment, however patients are given medication, therapy, guidance etc to help manage symptoms relating to the conditions stated, so for example a patient with MS could be suffering with fatigue, a symptom of MS, so they are given advice on how to manage this, this is in theory is "treating" the patient but not in the normal sense of what we would class as treating, therefore we need to understand what you mean by "treated"?

On 5th June 2021 (received into our office 7th June) you replied via email with:
"For the below query could you help us with "how many people had the consultation"

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 question 3 is not held centrally, but may be recorded in health records. In order to confirm whether this information is held we would therefore have to individually access all 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. In addition to the section 12 exemption the Trust is also applying section 14 (1) exemption: oppressive burden on the authority

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 just questions 1 and 2 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 (UJNM) 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 treatment of neurology patients within secondary care. Could you please answer the following three questions:

1. How many patients have been treated with the following drugs (for any disease) in the past 6 months:

- **Aubagio (teriflunomide)**
- **Avonex (interferon beta-1a)**
- **Betaferon (interferon beta-1b)**
- **Brabio (glatiramer acetate)**
- **Copaxone (glatiramer acetate)**
- **Extavia (beta interferon-1b)**
- **Fampyra (fampridine)**
- **Gilenya (fingolimod)**
- **Lemtrada (alemtuzumab)**
- **Mavenclad (cladribine)**
- **Mayzent (siponimod)**
- **Ocrevus (ocrelizumab)**
- **Plegridy (peginterferon beta-1a)**
- **Rebif (beta interferon-1a)**
- **Tecfidera (dimethyl fumarate)**
- **Tysabri (natalizumab)**
- **Zeposia (ozanimod)**

A1 See below:

Drug	PatientCount
ALEMTUZUMAB [lemtrada]	5
DIMETHYL FUMARATE [tecfidera]	171
FINGOLIMOD [gilenya]	65
GLATIRAMER [copaxone]	54
INTERFERON BETA-1A [avonex]	18
INTERFERON BETA-1A [rebif]	33
INTERFERON BETA-1B [betaferon]	<5

NATALIZUMAB [tysabri]	244
OCRELIZUMAB [ocrevus]	219
PEGINTERFERON BETA-1A [plegridy]	27
TERIFLUNOMIDE [aubagio]	16
BETA INTERFERON-1B [Extavia]	0
FAMPRIDINE [Fampyra]	0
CLADRIBINE [Mavenclad]	0
SIPONIMOD [Mayzent]	0
OZANIMOD [Zeposia]	0
GLATIRAMER ACETATE [Brabio]	0

Q2 How many patients have been treated with the following drugs in the past 4 months:

- **Ajovy (fremanezumab) - any disease**
- **Aimovig (erenumab) - any disease**
- **Emgality (galcanezumab) - any disease**
- **Botulinum Toxin (i.e. Botox, Dysport, Xeomin) - migraine ONLY**

A2 See below:

Ajovy (fremanezumab)	9
Aimovig (erenumab)	0
Emgality (galcanezumab)	0
Botulinum Toxin (i.e. Botox, Dysport, Xeomin) - migraine ONLY	Information not held

Q3 How many patients have been treated in the past 4 months for the following conditions?

- **Chronic migraine (15+ headache days per month)**
- **Episodic migraine (4-14 headache days per month)**
- **Primary progressive multiple sclerosis (PPMS)**
- **Secondary progressive multiple sclerosis (SPMS)**

A3 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.

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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.

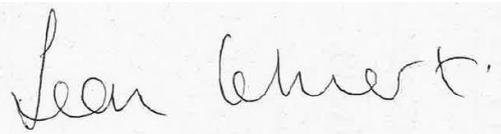
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and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



Jean Lehnert
Data, Security & Protection Manager