



Ref: FOIA Reference 2022/23-350

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

Date: 14th October 2022

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 23rd September 2022 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding Multiple sclerosis.

On 26th September 2022 we contacted you via email as we required clarification on Q2:
Or are we reading the question as how many patients have we seen solely for the stated conditions?
For example the sole reason for attending the hospital is because of one of the stated conditions

On 7th October 2022 you replied via email with:
'Thank you for processing our FOI request.'

As per your below query – Please let us know how many patients have you seen solely for the stated conditions (the sole reason for attending the hospital is because of one of the stated conditions).'

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 have a Freedom of information query. How many patients has your Trust/health board treated in the past 6 months (for any disease) with the following drugs?

- **Aubagio (teriflunomide)**
- **Avonex (interferon beta-1a)**
- **Betaferon (interferon beta-1b)**
- **Brabio (glatiramer acetate)**
- **Copaxone (glatiramer acetate)**
- **Extavia (beta interferon-1b)**
- **Gilenya (fingolimod)**
- **Lemtrada (alemtuzumab)**
- **Kesimpta (ofatumumab)**
- **Mavenclad (cladribine)**
- **Mayzent (siponimod)**
- **Ocrevus (ocrelizumab)**
- **Plegridy (peginterferon beta-1a)**
- **Ponvory (ponesimod)**
- **Rebif (beta interferon-1a)**
- **Tecfidera (dimethyl fumarate)**

- **Tysabri (natalizumab)**
- **Tysabri (natalizumab) pre-filled syringes ONLY**
- **Vumerity (diroximel fumarate)**
- **Zeposia (ozanimod)**

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.

- Aubagio (teriflunomide) = 14
- Avonex (interferon beta-1a) = 17
- Betaferon (interferon beta-1b) = <5
- Brabio (glatiramer acetate) = 0
- Copaxone (glatiramer acetate) = 72
- Extavia (beta interferon-1b) = <5
- Gilenya (fingolimod) = 61
- Lemtrada (alemtuzumab) = 8
- Kesimpta (ofatumumab) = <5
- Mavenclad (cladribine) = 0
- Mayzent (siponimod) = 18
- Ocrevus (ocrelizumab) = 343
- Plegridy (peginterferon beta-1a) = 21
- Ponzory (ponesimod) = 0
- Rebif (beta interferon-1a) = 28
- Tecfidera (dimethyl fumarate) = 158
- Tysabri (natalizumab) = 229
- Tysabri (natalizumab) pre-filled syringes ONLY = 0
- Vumerity (diroximel fumarate) = 0
- Zeposia (ozanimod) = 0

Q2 **It would also be very helpful if you could advise how many hospital patients seen in the past 6 months (as inpatients or outpatients) have a diagnosis for the following conditions:**

- **Multiple sclerosis (any type)**
- **Relapsing remitting multiple sclerosis (RRMS)**
- **Primary progressive multiple sclerosis (PPMS)**
- **Secondary progressive multiple sclerosis (SPMS)**

A2 We only have one code for multiple sclerosis which is G35.X Multiple sclerosis, this code covers all the different types listed therefore

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 this question is not held centrally, but may be recorded in individual health records (631 patients). In order to confirm whether this information is held we would therefore have to individually access all individual 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 individual 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 your request is shortened to just the questions that we are able to comply within the 18 hour time frame.

*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,

L Carlisle

Leah Carlisle
Head of Data, Security & Protection/ Data Protection Officer