

**Freedom of Information Request**

**Ref: 23-795**

16 November 2023

By Email

Dear Sir/Madam

Thank you for your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Trust's response is as follows:

- We can confirm that we hold some of the information you are requesting

**Q1. Does your trust or health board treat giant cell arteritis (GCA)?**

Yes

**If not, please provide the name of the hospital or trust that you refer GCA patients to.**

Not applicable

**Q2. In the past 3 months, how many patients with a primary diagnosis of GCA (ICD10 codes M31.5 or M31.6) were:**

**Admitted as an inpatient**

20

**Treated in A&E**

0

**Q3. How many patients were treated by the rheumatology department in the past 3 months with the following:**

**Tocilizumab – for any disease**

62

**Tocilizumab for rheumatoid arthritis (RA) only**

We do not hold this information - our systems do not record information on medication use against indication.

**Tocilizumab for giant cell arteritis (GCA) only**

We do not hold this information - our systems do not record information on medication use against indication.

**Q4. How many patients were treated by the ophthalmology department (for any disease) in the past 3 months with Tocilizumab?**

\*

Please note: Where the figures are between 1 and 5, this has been denoted by \*. Due to the low numbers, we have considered that there is the potential for individuals to be identified from the information provided, when considered with other information that may also be in the public domain. In our view disclosure of these low figures would breach one of the Data Protection Principles set out in Schedule 1 of the Data Protection Act, namely Principle 1. The Trust therefore finds that the Section 40(2) exemption contained within the Freedom of information Act 2000 is engaged. This follows NHS Digital (formerly HSCIC) analysis guidance (2014) which states that small numbers within local authorities, wards, postcode districts, providers and Trusts may allow identification of patients and should not be published.

**Q5. How many patients were treated in A&E in the past 3 months for giant cell arteritis (GCA) with Tocilizumab?**

The Eye Emergency Department will not start Tocilizumab, it takes approximately one week for screening blood tests to be processed and all cases need to be discussed in a MDT meeting

This concludes our response. We trust that you find this helpful, but please do not hesitate to contact us directly if we can be of any further assistance.

If, after that, you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to:

Data Protection Officer  
University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust  
Trust Headquarters  
Marlborough Street  
Bristol  
BS1 3NU

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF

Publication

Please note that this letter and the information included/attached will be published on our website as part of the Trust's Freedom of Information Publication Log. This is because information disclosed in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act is disclosed to the

public, not just to the individual making the request. We will remove any personal information (such as your name, email and so on) from any information we make public to protect your personal information.

To view the Freedom of Information Act in full please click [here](#).

Yours sincerely

**Freedom of Information Team**  
**University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust**