

19 July 2017

**Our Ref:** RFI 20550

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000  
Information in Relation to Biologics and Severe Asthma Treatment used by  
the South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust**

I am writing to confirm that the South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust (the Trust) has now completed its search for the information relating to the above which you requested on 6 June 2017.

A response to each of the questions raised has been provided by the Hospital Services Directorate and is attached in Appendix A.

Under the terms of the legislation, if you are unhappy with this response you have the right to seek a review within the Trust in the first instance. If you wish to do so, please write to me at the address below.

If after such a review you are still unhappy with the response, you have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioner who will undertake an independent review. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, SK9 5AF.

If you have any queries about this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

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**Laura Algie  
Senior Manager  
Risk Management & Governance  
Directorate**

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Q1. *How many adult severe asthma patients have been seen via both in-patient visits and outpatient clinics in the last 3 months?*

A1. The Trust can confirm that there have been 37 admissions based on 'Asthma' as the primary diagnosis to the Ulster Hospital in the last 3 months.

However the information centrally recorded does not clarify if all 37 patients were defined as "severe".

The Trust is unable to provide information on 'severe' asthma for day case and outpatient services as patients are not coded to the same depth of coding as inpatients.

Q2. *How many adult severe asthma patients have you treated with a biologic in the last 3 months?*

A2. The Trust has not treated any asthma patients with biologics in the past 3 months.

Q3. *Of these patients treated, can you provide which drugs they were treated with, as follows:*

- *Omalizumab (Xolair)*
- *Mepolizumab (Nucala)*
- *Reslizumab (Cinqaero)*

A3. The Trust does not use any of the drugs referenced above.