

8 February 2019

Our Ref: RFI 26857

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in relation to Asthma Patients**

I am writing to confirm that the South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust (the Trust) has now completed its search for information relating to the above which you requested on 11 January 2019.

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

If you are unhappy as to how this request has been handled, you have the right to seek a review within the Trust in the first instance. You should write to the Information Governance Department, Lough House, Ards Community Hospital (informationgovernance@setrust.hscni.net) within two months of the date of this response and your complaint will be considered and a response provided, within 20 working days of receipt.

If, after receiving a response, you remain unhappy, you can refer your complaint to the Information Commissioner at The Information Commissioner's Office –Northern Ireland, 3rd Floor, 14 Cromac Place, Belfast, BT7 2JB. It is important to note that if you refer any matter to the Information Commissioner, you will need to show evidence of having gone through the Trust's internal review procedure to try to resolve the matter with the Trust in the first instance.

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

**Catherine Treanor
Information Governance Assistant**

Q1. In your trust, in the past 3 months [latest 3 months available], how many asthma patients aged 18 and over have been treated [with a drug]?

A1. This information is not centrally held.

Q2. How many paediatric asthma treated patients [aged 6-17] have been treated in the last 3 months?

A2. In the last 3 months there have been 10 children aged between 6-17 admitted to the Ulster Hospital with a primary diagnosis of asthma.

Between October 2018 and December 2018 there have been 132 patients attend outpatient clinics which are primarily for Asthma / Allergy patients. To establish if these were for purely "Asthma" patients would require a manual review of records

This would exceed the 'Appropriate Limit' as defined by the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Trust therefore exempts the release of this information under Section 12(1).

12.-(1) Section 1(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 this letter acts as a Refusal Notice.

Q3. How many severe asthmatic patients [BTS guidelines, step 4 or 5] have been treated in the last 3 months?

A3. Table 1 below shows all admissions with a primary diagnosis of asthma for the last 3 months. To establish if these were for severe asthmatic patients would require a manual review of records

This would exceed the 'Appropriate Limit' as defined by the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Trust therefore exempts the release of this information under Section 12(1).

12.-(1) Section 1(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 this letter acts as a Refusal Notice.

Table 1

Age Group	Hospital Description	Admissions
Paed (6-17)	Ulster Hospital	10
Other	Ards Community Hospital	1
	Downe Hospital	4
	Lagan Valley Hospital	7
	Ulster Hospital	45
Total		67

Q4. How many patients have been treated in the last 3 months with:
Omalizumab [Xolair]
Mepolizumab [Nucala]
Reslizumab [Cinqaero]
Benralizumab [Fasenra]
Other [Please state]

A4. Omalizumab [Xolair] is not used in the Trust for treatment of Asthma however in last 3 months, we have treated 6 x dermatology patients with omalizumab (chronic spontaneous urticaria).

The others are not used within the Trust. The Trust refers both adults and children to the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust for treatment with these therapies.

Q5. How many paediatric patients have treated in the last 3 months with Xolair/omalizumab?

A5. Please see response to Q4 above.

Q6. Could you please provide me with the following numbers of patients treated in the last 12 months [latest 12 months possible] with the following drugs;

Ocreotide
Lanreotide
Pasireotide
Pegvisomant

A6. Ocreotide – This is typically issued as stock to wards. In the absence of an electronic prescribing system, it is not possible to break this down to numbers of patients treated.

Lanreotide – This is typically issued as stock to wards. In the absence of an electronic prescribing system, it is not possible to break this down to numbers of patients treated.

Pasireotide – This is not used within the Trust.

Pegvisomant – This is not used within the Trust.