

30 September 2020

Our Ref: RFI 35798

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in relation to Biologic and Biosimilar Products Prescribing in
Rheumatology**

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 9 September 2020.

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

**Joyce Batch
Information Governance Assistant**

I have a Freedom of Information request regarding biologic and biosimilar product prescribing in rheumatology.

Q1. *How many patients have been treated with biologics or biosimilar products in the last 12 months for the following conditions:*
Rheumatoid Arthritis
Psoriatic Arthritis
Ankylosing Spondylitis
Non-Radiographic Axial Spondyloarthritis

A1 The Trust does not have an electronic prescribing system therefore patient diagnosis is not captured at the point of dispensing. Consequently, Pharmacy is unable to break usage figures down to this level of diagnosis.

To access this information would require a manual trawl 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.

Q2. Could you please provide the numbers of patients treated by the rheumatology department (for any condition) in the last 12 months with the following drugs.

A2 The number of patients treated by the **rheumatology** department in the Trust (for any condition) in the last 12 months with the following drugs is provided in Table 1 below:

Table 1

Drug	No. of Patients
Abatacept [Orencia]	17
Adalimumab [Amgevita]	1
Adalimumab [Humira]	194
Adalimumab [Hyrimoz]	0
Adalimumab [Imraldi]	129
Apremilast [Otezla]	3
Baricitinib [Olumiant]	41
Certolizumab [Cimzia]	6
Etanercept [Benepali]	2
Etanercept [Enbrel]	68
Etanercept [Erelzi]	113
Golimumab [Simponi]	68
Infliximab [Flixabi]	0
Infliximab [Inflectra]	0
Infliximab [Remicade]	5
Infliximab [Remsima]	4
Ixekizumab [Taltz]	4
Rituximab [MabThera]	48
Rituximab [Rixathon]	0
Rituximab [Truxima]	0
Sarilumab [Kevzara]	1
Secukinumab [Cosentyx]	36
Tocilizumab [Ro Actemra]	39
Tofacitinib [Xeljanz]	13
Upadacitinib [Rinvoq]	0
Ustekinumab [Stelara]	4