

14<sup>th</sup> October 2021

**Our Ref:** RFI 40633

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000**  
**Information in Relation to biologic medications in gastroenterology**

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 27 August 2021.

Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding to your correspondence as the Information Governance Department is dealing with a large number of requests for information, including a backlog of requests as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic which had a major impact across services.

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](mailto: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

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**Cathryn Hedley**  
**Information Governance Assistant**

**Q1. How many patients were treated in July 2021 (or latest available month) by the gastroenterology department with the following drugs:**

A1. Please see Table One below which details the number of patients treated in July 2021 by the gastroenterology department with the specified drugs.

Table One

Drug	No of Patients
· Adalimumab (any brand or biosimilar)	118
· Infliximab (any brand or biosimilar)	122
· Ustekinumab (Stelara)	61
· Vedolizumab (Entyvio)	38
· Tofacitinib (Xeljanz)	<5*
· Filgotinib (Jyseleca)	NIL

*\*Please note some figures have been masked, this is due to a low patient number in a small geographical area.*

**Q2. How many patients were treated in July 2021 (or latest available month) for Crohn's Disease ONLY with the following drugs:**

A2. Please see Table Two below which details the number of patients treated in July 2021 for Crohn's Disease only with the specified drugs.

Table Two

Drug	No of Patients
· Adalimumab (any brand or biosimilar)	87
· Infliximab (any brand or biosimilar)	75
· Ustekinumab (Stelara)	56
· Vedolizumab (Entyvio)	15