

12 January 2022

Our Ref: RFI 40864

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in relation to the use of Biological Drugs by the Trusts
Gastroenterology Department**

I am writing to confirm that the South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust (the Trust) has now completed its search for information relating to above which you requested on 10 September 2021. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding to your request, due to the impact of Winter Pressures that the Trust is currently facing. Thank you for your understanding and forbearance of this matter

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

Rebecca Manning
Information Governance Assistant

Q1. Could you please provide the numbers of patients treated in the last 3 months by the Gastroenterology department (for any medical condition) with the following biologic drugs:

A1. Please see Table 1.

Table 1

Treatment	No. of Patients Treated
Adalimumab - Humira	8
Adalimumab Biosimilar	170
Filgotinib	Nil
Golimumab	5
Infliximab - Remicade	<5
Infliximab Biosimilar	211
Tofacitinib	7
Ustekinumab	125
Vedolizumab	72

Q2. How many patients were treated in the last 3 months for Crohn's Disease ONLY with the following biologic drugs:

A2. Please see Table 2.

Table 2

Treatment	No. of Patients Treated
Adalimumab - Humira	5
Adalimumab Biosimilar	122
Golimumab	<5
Infliximab - Remicade	<5
Infliximab Biosimilars	134
Ustekinumab	110
Vedolizumab	25

You will note that some of the numbers within Table 1 & 2 have been masked. The numbers have been masked because there are a small number of individuals within a small geographical area and therefore the individual could be identified. Potential Identification of the individual may therefore lead to the disclosure of their personal information.

This information relates to personal information, it is exempt from release under Section 40 (2) and 40 (3) (a) of the Freedom of Information Act, 2000.

Section 40 (personal information) states:-

(2) Any information to which a request for information relates is also exempt information if—

(a) it constitutes personal data which not fall within subsection (1), and

(b) the first, second or third condition below is satisfied.

(3) The first condition is that the disclosure of the information to a member of the public otherwise than under this Act—

(a) would contravene any of the data protection principles.