

12 January 2022

Our Ref: RFI 41161

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 1 October 2021. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding to your request due to the impact of winter pressures on staff across many of the Trust services. Thank you for your patience and understanding of this matter.

A response to each of the questions raised has been provided by the Adult Services and Prison Healthcare 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 Manager (Interim)

I am analysing the usage of new biologic medications in gastroenterology. I would greatly appreciate if you could answer the following two questions.

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

A1. The figures in Table 1 below relate to the numbers of patients who had a supply of the specific drugs dispensed by the Trust pharmacy during December 2021.

Table 1

Name of Drug	Number of patients
Adalimumab (any brand or biosimilar)	86
Infliximab (any brand or biosimilar)	129
Ustekinumab (Stelara)	60
Vedolizumab (Entyvio)	41
Tofacitinib (Xeljanz)	6
Filgotinib (Jyseleca)	0

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

A2. The figures in Table 2 below relate to the numbers of patients who were treated for Crohn's disease only during December 2021.

Table 2

Name of Drug	Number of patients
Adalimumab (any brand or biosimilar)	60
Infliximab (any brand or biosimilar)	87
Ustekinumab (Stelara)	47
Vedolizumab (Entyvio)	13