

23 November 2023

Our Ref: RFI 54410

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in Relation to Giant Cell Arteritis (GCA).**

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 26 October 2023.

A response to each of the questions raised has been provided by the Unscheduled Care, Medicine & Cancer 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

Caroline Degans
Information Governance Officer

Q1. Does your trust or health board treat giant cell arteritis (GCA)? If not, please provide the name of the hospital or trust that you refer GCA patients to.

A1. Yes, the Trust does treat Giant Cell Arteritis (GCA).

**Q2. In the past 3 months, how many patients with a primary diagnosis of GCA (ICD10 codes M31.5 or M31.6) were:
Admitted as an inpatient
Treated in A&E**

A2. There were 2 patients with a primary diagnosis of GCA admitted as an inpatient between 1 May 2023 and 31 July 2023.

Please note that due to the clinical coding lag for inpatients the Trust is unable to give the information for the past 3 months.

There were 5 patients with a primary diagnosis of GCA treated in A&E between 1 May 2023 and 31 July 2023.

Please note that the Trust has provided figures for the same timeframe as above. However, the number of patients treated in A&E with a primary diagnosis of GCA for the past 3 months is Nil.

**Q3. How many patients were treated by the rheumatology department in the past 3 months with the following:
Tocilizumab – for any disease
Tocilizumab for rheumatoid arthritis (RA) only
Tocilizumab for giant cell arteritis (GCA) only**

A3. Please see Table 1 for the number of patients treated by the Rheumatology Department in the past 3 months with the following drugs.

Table 1

Treatment	Number of Patients
Tocilizumab – for any disease	80
Tocilizumab for rheumatoid arthritis (RA) only	51
Tocilizumab for giant cell arteritis (GCA) only	22 (13 cranial GCA and 9 Large Vessel Vasculitis)

Q4. *How many patients were treated by the ophthalmology department (for any disease) in the past 3 months with Tocilizumab?*

A4. There were no patients treated by the Ophthalmology Department (for any disease) in the past 3 months with Tocilizumab.

Q5. *How many patients were treated in A&E in the past 3 months for giant cell arteritis (GCA) with Tocilizumab?*

A5. There were no patients treated in A&E in the past 3 months for Giant Cell Arteritis (GCA) with Tocilizumab.