

Reference:	FOI.20298.26
Subject:	Alopecia Areata
Date of Request:	27 April 2026

Requested:

1. Number of patients treated for Alopecia Areata / patients treated with Ritlecitinib (Litfulo). Please confirm the number of patients for the calendar year (2025).

Request	Patients
Number of patients treated for Alopecia Areata (2025)	
Number of patients with Alopecia Areata treated with Ritlecitinib (Litfulo)	

Response:

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) is unable to provide you with all the information requested, as it is estimated that the cost of answering your request would exceed the “appropriate limit” as stated in the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. The “appropriate limit” represents the estimated cost of one person spending 18 hours (or 2½ working days) in determining whether the UHB holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

In order to provide you with the number of patients treated for Alopecia Areata during the 2025 calendar year, the UHB would need to undertake a manual trawl of the Dermatology patient records, to identify the information that would fulfil this part of your request, as this is not recorded centrally.

The UHB’s Dermatology department treated four hundred and fifty-three (453) patients during the 2025 calendar year. It is estimated that a manual search of these records would exceed the 18 hours stipulated within the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA). Based on the number of records identified, conducting a search of patient records taking five (5) minutes per digital record, would exceed the ‘appropriate limit’, costing the UHB the following:

453 @ 5 minutes per item = 37 hours and 36 minutes
 37 hours and 36 minutes @ £25 per hour = £940.00

The UHB is therefore applying an exemption under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA), which provides an exemption from a public authority’s obligation to comply with a request for information where the cost of compliance is estimated to exceed the appropriate limit.

However, under Section 16 of the FoIA, we are required as a public authority, to provide advice and assistance so far as it is reasonable to individuals who have made a request under the FoIA, this can include assisting a requestor to further refine their request.

The UHB suggests that you may refine your request by reducing the timeframe requested to a one (1) month period e.g. January 2025. However, the UHB would still be required to undertake a manual trawl of all Dermatology patient records to identify the information required to fulfil your request, therefore, the outcome would be dependent on the number of records identified within a shorter time period.

Under Section 16, the UHB can confirm that eight (8) Dermatology patients were treated with the medication Ritlecitinib (Litfulo), for any condition, during the 2025 calendar years.