Reference:	FOI.16323.25
Subject:	Giant Cell Arteritis (GCA)
Date of Request:	10 January 2025

Requested:

1. 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.

2. 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

3. 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

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

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

Response:

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) is unable to provide you with all of the information requested for question 3, 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 all of the data requested, the UHB would need to undertake a manual trawl of all identified prescriptions and cross reference with the patient's medical record to identify the reason for treatment.

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, the UHB has a duty to provide advice and assistance and provides the accessible information it holds below.

1. The UHB confirms that it does treat patients with Giant Cell Arteritis (GCA).

2. The UHB is unable to provide you with the exact number of patients due to the low number of cases (less than 5), as there is a potential risk of identifying individuals if this was disclosed. The UHB is therefore withholding this detail under Section 40(2) of the FoIA. This information is protected by the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA)/UK General Data Protection Regulations, as its disclosure would constitute unfair and unlawful processing and would be contrary to the principles and articles of the UK GDPR. This exemption is absolute and therefore, there is no requirement to apply the public interest test.

   In reaching this decision, the DPA and UK GDPR define personal data as data that relates to a living individual who can be identified solely from that data or from that data and other information, which is in the possession of the data controller.

3. A Section 12 exemption has been applied to the information requested for Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) and GCA. However, the UHB can confirm that ninety-one (91) patients were treated with Tocilizumab, for any condition, during the period 1 October to 31 December 2024.

4. The UHB confirms that there were no patients recorded on its Pharmacy system as being treated with Tocilizumab by the Ophthalmology Department for any condition, during the period 1 October to 31 December 2024.

5. The UHB confirms that there were no patients recorded on its Pharmacy system as being treated with Tocilizumab for GCA in Accident and Emergency (A&E), during the period 1 October to 31 December 2024.