Reference:	FOI.21550.26
Subject:	Giant Cell Arteritis (GCA)
Date of Request:	9 September 2026

Requested:

1. How many patients have a current diagnosis of Giant Cell Arteritis (GCA) (ICD10 codes M31.5 or M31.6) at your Trust?

2. How many patients have been newly diagnosed with Giant Cell Arteritis (GCA) (ICD10 codes M31.5 or M31.6) in the past 3 months?

3. How many patients were treated by the Rheumatology department for Giant Cell Arteritis (GCA) (ICD10 codes M31.5 or M31.6)?

4. 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

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

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

7. 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

Response:

1. Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) confirms it had two hundred and eleven (211) patients diagnosed with GCA, at 31 August 2026.

2. The UHB estimates, based on the number of patients on the Rheumatology follow up list for GCA, that six (6) patients were newly diagnosed with GCA irrelevant of ICD codes, during the period 1 June to 31 August 2026.

3. The UHB confirms it was treating one hundred and sixty-eight (168) patients for GCA, as recorded on the UHB's Rheumatology treatment list, at 31 August 2026.

4. The UHB provides within the table below, the number of patients treated by the Rheumatology department with the listed medications and indications, during the period 1 June to 31 August 2026.

Medication	Number
Tocilizumab – for any disease	99
Tocilizumab for rheumatoid arthritis (RA) only	72
Tocilizumab for giant cell arteritis (GCA) only	18

5. The UHB confirms that zero (0) patients were recorded on its Pharmacy system as being treated with Tocilizumab by the Ophthalmology Department for any condition, during the period 1 June to 31 August 2026.

6. The UHB confirms that zero (0) patients with GCA were recorded on its Pharmacy system as being treated with Tocilizumab in its Accident and Emergency (A&E) departments, during the period 1 June to 31 August 2026.

7. The UHB provides within the table below, the number of patients with a primary diagnosis of GCA that were admitted as an inpatient or treated in an Accident and Emergency (A&E) department, during the period 1 June to 31 August 2026.

Treatment type	Number
Admitted as an inpatient	7
Treated in A&E	*

Where the figure in the table has been replaced with an asterisk (*), 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 Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA). This information is protected by the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA)/UK General Data Protection Regulations (UK GDPR), 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.