

<b>Reference:</b>	FOI.011
<b>Subject:</b>	Intra-vitreous vials and implants
<b>Date of Request:</b>	11 January 2019

**Requested**

Within your organisation how many **Intra-vitreous vials / Implants** have been used in the latest 4 months, if possible between September and December 2018.

Please state the number of vials dispensed from your pharmacy in this period, if the number of wet AMD is not known, then regardless of reason for use.

**Response:**

The number of intra/vitreous vials/implants that were dispensed by Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) between 1 September and 31 December 2018 are provided within the table below.

	Lucentis (Ranibizumab) Injections	Avastin (Bevacizumab) Injections	Eylea (Aflibercept) Injections	Iluvien (Fluocinolone) Implants	Ozudex (Dexamethasone) Implants
TOTAL Vials / Implants	1798	0	1094	3	5

The UHB is unable to provide you with the number of vials or implants that were dispensed for the treatment of wet age related macular degeneration. It is estimated that the cost of retrieving it would exceed the “appropriate level” as stated in the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004. The “appropriate level” represents the estimated cost of one person spending 18 hours or (2 ½ working days) in determining whether the UHB holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

The UHB’s pharmacy system CASPA does not record the indication for which the medication has been prescribed. For those medications with multiple indications, the UHB would be required to conduct a manual trawl of the pharmacy records and cross reference these patients medical records to establish the number that were prescribed for the treatment of wet age related macular degenerations.

To establish the number of patients affected alone the UHB has estimated that it would cost the following:

Review 2,900 pharmacy records to retrieve patient information, taking approximately 5 minutes per file.

5 minutes x 2,900 records = 241.5 hours  
 241.5 hours at £25 per hour = £6,041.5

The UHB is therefore applying an exemption under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to this part of the request. Section 12 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*.

