

Reference:	FOI.16577.25
Subject:	Usage of high cost drugs in Ophthalmology
Date of Request:	11 February 2025

Requested:

For the 4 months from September to December 2024, how many **unique*** patients received the following intra-vitreous treatments for any eye condition:

- Aflibercept
- Bevacizumab
- Brolucizumab
- Dexamethasone
- Faricimab
- Ranibizumab – Lucentis
- Ranibizumab Biosimilar

*Please count a patient only once for any treatment, regardless of how many injections or implants they may have received

Response:

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) provides within the table overleaf, the number of unique patients treated with the named treatments during the period 1 September to 31 December 2024.

Treatment	Number
Aflibercept	243
Bevacizumab	0
Brolucizumab	*
Dexamethasone	57
Faricimab	265
Ranibizumab – Lucentis	52
Ranibizumab Biosimilar	496

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 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.