

<b>Reference:</b>	FOI.8173.22
<b>Subject:</b>	Use of biologic drugs in Gastroenterology
<b>Date of Request:</b>	8 February 2022

**Requested:**

Could you please provide the numbers of patients treated in the last 3 months by the Gastroenterology department for any medical condition, and if possible, for Ulcerative Colitis, with the following biologic drugs:

<b>Treatments</b>	<b>Total Gastroenterology Patients</b>	<b>Ulcerative Colitis Patients</b>
Adalimumab - Humira		
Adalimumab Biosimilar		
Filgotinib		
Golimumab		
Infliximab - Remicade		
Infliximab Biosimilar		
Ozanimod		
Tofacitinib		
Ustekinumab		
Vedolizumab		

**Response:**

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) is unable to provide you with all of 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 and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. The “appropriate limit” 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.

In order to provide you with the number of Ulcerative Colitis patients that received the listed medications, the UHB would need to undertake a manual trawl of all Gastroenterology patient records and cross reference with the Pharmacy system, to identify the data requested, as the information is not recorded centrally.

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 FoIA..

Therefore, the UHB provides, within the table below, the number of patients treated by the Gastroenterology Department with the listed biologic medications, during the period 1 November 2021 to 31 January 2022.

<b>Biologic medication</b>	<b>Number of patients</b>
Adalimumab – Humira	6
Adalimumab Biosimilar	*
Filgotinib	0
Golimumab	0
Infliximab – Remicade	0
Infliximab Biosimilar	0
Ozanimod	0
Tofacitinib	0
Ustekinumab	10
Vedolizumab	*
Total	22

Where the figures in the table have been replaced with an asterisk (\*), the UHB is unable to provide you with the exact number of patients, due to the low numbers of cases (5 and under), 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/General Data Protection Regulations 2016 (GDPR), as its disclosure would constitute unfair and unlawful processing and would be contrary to the principles and articles 6 and 9 of the GDPR. This exemption is absolute and therefore, there is no requirement to apply the public interest test.

In reaching this decision, the Data Protection Act 2018/General Data Protection Regulations 2016 define personal data as data which 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.