Reference:	FOI.13867.24
Subject:	Giant Cell Arteritis (GCA) and Hidradenitis Suppurativa (HS)
Date of Request:	21 February 2024

Requested:

1. Could you please tell me how many patients were treated in the last 3 months for Hidradenitis Suppurativa (HS) with the following biologic drugs:

    - Adalimumab - Humira
    - Adalimumab Biosimilar
    - Bimekizumab
    - Certolizumab
    - Infliximab
    - Secukinumab
    - Ustekinumab

2. In the past 3 months, how many patients with a primary diagnosis of giant cell arteritis (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 any disease) with Tocilizumab?

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 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 for question 1 and some of the data requested for question 3, 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. Therefore, the UHB provides, the accessible information it holds below.

Nevertheless, the UHB is also unable to provide you with the information requested for question 5, due to the low number of cases (5 and under), as there is a potential risk of identifying individuals if this was disclosed. Additionally, where the figures in the tables 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 (less than 5), as there is a potential risk of identifying individuals if this was disclosed. Therefore, the UHB is withholding these details 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.

1. The UHB provides, within the table below, the number of patients that were treated with the listed medications, for any condition, during the period 1 December 2023 to 29 February 2024.

Medication	Number
Adalimumab - Humira	15
Adalimumab Biosimilar	448
Bimekizumab	*
Certolizumab	46
Infliximab	204
Secukinumab	77
Ustekinumab	172

2. The UHB provides, within the table below, the number of patients with a primary diagnosis of Giant Cell Arteritis (GCA) that were admitted to a UHB hospital and those treated in its Accident and Emergency (A&E) Departments, as recorded on the UHB's Welsh Patient Administration System (WPAS), during the period 1 November 2023 to 31 January 2024.

Area treated	Number
Admitted as an inpatient	7
Treated in A&E	*

Please note:- the difference in the reporting periods is due to the information being held in different systems.

3. A section 12 exemption has been applied to the information requested for Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) and GCA. However, under Section 16 the UHB can confirm that seventy-nine (79) patients

were treated with Tocilizumab, for any condition, as recorded on the UHB's Pharmacy system, during the period 1 December 2023 to 29 February 2024.

4. The UHB confirms that there were no patients recorded on the UHB's Pharmacy system treated with Tocilizumab by the Ophthalmology Department for any condition, during the period 1 December 2023 to 29 February 2024.

5. Section 40 exemption applied.