



Freedom of Information Team  
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Name:  
Email:  
Date: 13/06/2023  
Ref: 23-24 109

Dear

**RE: Freedom of Information request**

Thank you for your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which was received by the Trust on 22/05/2023. Please see responses to your requests below.

**I am researching the usage of high-cost drugs in ophthalmology. Your answers to the following questions will be highly appreciated.**

**1. For the 4 months from January to April 2023, how many patients received the following anti-VEGF treatments for any eye condition:**

**Aflibercept**

**Bevacizumab**

**Brolucizumab**

**Dexamethasone**

**Faricimab**

**Ranibizumab**

The Trust is only able to provide information in relation to drug dispensing, we do not record diagnoses on our clinical systems so therefore we are unable to link the type of drug to diagnosis. To extract this information, we would have to search through a significant amount of patient records. It is estimated that to attempt to retrieve all the information you require would take a considerable amount of retrieval time, which would exceed 18 hours. This would exceed the appropriate limit for dealing with a Freedom of Information Request, in terms of costs and therefore Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 applies.

**2. For the patients above, how many were new to anti-VEGF therapy? Please provide the patient numbers by the treatments listed below, excluding patients who previously had any anti-VEGF therapy.**

**Aflibercept**

**Bevacizumab**

**Brolucizumab**

**Dexamethasone**

**Faricimab**

**Ranibizumab**

Please see exemption in question 1.

Please accept this letter as completion of your request. Please note that copies of this request will be held on file for three years before being confidentially destroyed.

If you are dissatisfied with the outcome of your request, please contact our Head of Information Governance on [Information.Governance@porthosp.nhs.uk](mailto:Information.Governance@porthosp.nhs.uk) or write to the above address and we will conduct an internal review. Upon review, if you are still dissatisfied, you may appeal our decision by contacting the Information Commissioner's Office; for more information, please visit the [ICO's website](#).

Please be aware, if we do not receive an appeal within 30 days of you receiving this letter, we will assume that you are satisfied with our response. If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Team