

Dear

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – TOCILIZUMAB TREATMENT

I write in response to your request for information in relation to treatment with Tocilizumab in NHS Lothian.

Question:

1. 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

Answer:

221 patients were treated with Tocilizumab for any disease.

We are not able to provide data for the number of patients treated for rheumatoid arthritis or giant cell arteritis, as information that matches treatment to diagnosis is not collected centrally. Information will be held in individual patient records, but in order to provide the information you request it would be necessary to review each patient record over the period you have specified, requiring significant resources. Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, NHS Lothian is not required to respond to your request if the resources required to do so equate to more than £600 in cost.

Question:

2. How many patients were treated by the ophthalmology department (for any disease) in the past 3 months with Tocilizumab?

Answer:

11 patients were treated.

Question:

3. How many patients were treated in A&E in the past 3 months for giant cell arteritis (GCA) with Tocilizumab?

Answer:

We are not able to provide this data, as information that matches treatment to diagnosis is not collected centrally. Information will be held in individual patient records, but in order to provide the information you request it would be necessary to review each patient record over the period you have specified, requiring significant resources. Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, NHS Lothian is not required to respond to your request if the resources required to do so equate to more than £600 in cost.

Question:

4. In the past 3 months, how many patients with a primary diagnosis of GCA (ICD10 codes M31.5 or M31.6) were:

Admitted as an inpatient  
Treated in A&E

Answer:

Between 1 October and 31 December 2025 fewer than five patients were treated in the Emergency Department with these diagnosis codes. No patients were admitted as inpatients.

I have not released numbers of 5 or fewer, as this information could lead to the identification of the individuals involved. Since we do not have their consent to release their personal data, the information is exempt under section 38 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 as to provide it would breach the principles of the Data Protection Act 2018.

I hope the information provided helps with your request.

If you are unhappy with our response to your request, you do have the right to request us to review it. Your request should be made within 40 working days of receipt of this letter, and we will reply within 20 working days of receipt. If our decision is unchanged following a review and you remain dissatisfied with this, you then have the right to make a formal complaint to the Scottish Information Commissioner within 6 months of receipt of our review response. You can do this by using the Scottish Information Commissioner's Office online appeals service at <https://www.foi.scot/appeal>. If you remain dissatisfied with the Commissioner's response you then have the option to appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law.

If you require a review of our decision to be carried out, please write to the reviewer at the address at the top of this letter. The review will be undertaken by a Reviewer who was not involved in the original decision-making process.



FOI responses (subject to redaction of personal information) may appear on NHS Lothian's Freedom of Information website at: <https://org.nhslothian.scot/FOI>

Yours sincerely

**ALISON MACDONALD**  
**Executive Director of Nursing Midwifery and AHPs**  
Cc: Chief Executive