

Date 31 August 2026
Your Ref
Our Ref 11797

Enquiries to Richard Mutch
Extension 35687
Direct Line 0131 465 5687
loth.freedomofinformation@nhs.scot
richard.mutch@nhs.scot

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – BIOLOGICS

I write in response to your request for information in relation to biologics.

Question:

- Under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, please could I request data regarding patient initiations on all Scottish Medicines Consortium (SMC) approved biologic therapies for severe asthma. Specifically, please could you provide the total number of patients initiated on the following respiratory biologic medications, broken down by month for the time period of Jan-24 to Jul-26.
 - Benralizumab (Fasenra)
 - Dupilumab (Dupixent)
 - Mepolizumab (Nucala)
 - Omalizumab (Xolair / Omlyclo)
 - Tezepelumab (Tezspire)

Answer:

1. Please note due to variation on our system in how we record medication issues, for the time period specified there may be large %s of medication issues each month that are not patient identifiable. This may mean figures are underestimated as patients may have initiated treatment from ward stock / outpatient areas, where there is no electronic record available that identifies the patient.
2. We cannot 100% confirm “initiation” – we have looked for patients who did not receive a named dispensing in the 6 months prior and counted these as “initiation” – again, this may be inaccurate if there was no named patient issue on our system and stock was given from ward stock as per point 1.
3. We cannot pull information by diagnosis of “Severe Asthma”, but we have isolated medicines issued within respiratory areas to identify patient counts from there – please note this is only for adult services as we cannot isolate respiratory within children’s services.

Year	Month	BENRALIZUMAB	DUPILUMAB	MEPOLIZUMAB	OMALIZUMAB	TEZEPELUMAB
2024	January	5<	5<	5<	5<	5<

2024	February	6	5<	5<	5<	5<
2024	March	8	5<	5<	5<	5<
2024	April	9	5<	5<	5<	5<
2024	May	9	5<	5<	5<	5<
2024	June	11	5<	5<	5<	5<
2024	July	8	5<	5<	5<	5<
2024	August	11	5<	5<	5<	5<
2024	September	7	5<	5<	5<	5<
2024	October	8	5<	5<	5<	5<
2024	November	10	5<	5<	5<	5<
2024	December	9	5<	5<	5<	5<
2025	January	6	5<	5<	5<	5<
2025	February	8	5<	5<	5<	12
2025	March	5<	5<	5<	5<	5<
2025	April	5<	5<	5<	5<	6
2025	May	5<	5<	5<	5<	5<
2025	June	5<	5<	5<	5<	6
2025	July	6	5<	5<	5<	5<
2025	August	5<	5<	5<	5<	5<
2025	September	5<	5<	5<	5<	6
2025	October	5<	5<	5<	5<	7
2025	November	5<	5<	5<	5<	5<
2025	December	5<	5<	5<	5<	5<
2026	January	5<	5<	5<	5<	5<
2026	February	6	5<	5<	5<	8
2026	March	5<	5<	5<	5<	5<
2026	April	5<	5<	5<	5<	6
2026	May	5<	5<	5<	5<	5<
2026	June	5<	5<	5<	5<	5<
2026	July	5<	5<	5<	5<	5<

To protect the identity of the individuals involved any figure of 5 or less has not been shown in the table above. Since we do not have their consent to release this data from their records, the information is exempt under section 38(1)(b) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act i.e. to provide it would breach the Data Protection Act (2018).

I hope the information provided helps with your request. I am sorry I cannot help further 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 www.itspublicknowledge.info/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 FOI Reviewer at the email address at the head 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/Pages/default.aspx>

Yours sincerely

ALISON MACDONALD
Executive Director, Nursing
Cc: Chief Executive