

Ref. No: 2340  
Date: 04/02/26  
Subject: High-cost drugs in ophthalmology

## REQUEST

1. For the 4 months from September to December 2025, how many **unique\*** patients received the following intra-vitreous treatments for any eye condition:

Aflibercept

Bevacizumab

Brolucizumab

Dexamethasone

Faricimab

Ranibizumab

Fluocinolone acetonide

\*Please count a patient only once for any treatment, regardless of how many injections or implants they may have received

2. For the patients above, how many were new to intra-vitreous treatment? Please provide the patient numbers by the treatments listed below, excluding patients who previously had received any of these treatments.

Aflibercept

Bevacizumab

Brolucizumab

Dexamethasone

Faricimab

Ranibizumab – Lucentis

Ranibizumab Biosimilar

Fluocinolone acetonide

## RESPONSE

1. For the 4 months from September to December 2025, how many **unique\*** patients received the following intra-vitreous treatments for any eye condition:

Aflibercept 0

Bevacizumab 0

Brolucizumab 0

Dexamethasone **unable to answer, as this is a ward stock item.**

Faricimab 0

Ranibizumab 0

Fluocinolone acetonide 0

2. For the patients above, how many were new to intra-vitreous treatment? Please provide the patient numbers by the treatments listed below, excluding patients who previously had received any of these treatments.

### Section 12: cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit

Following a thorough assessment, we regret to inform you that Mersey and West Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust is unable to comply with your request, as doing so would exceed the cost limit set out under **Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000**.

Section 12 states that a public authority is not obliged to comply with a request for information if it estimates that the cost of doing so would exceed the **appropriate limit**, which is currently set at **£450** for NHS organisations. This equates to **18 hours of staff time**, calculated at a standard rate of £25 per hour, as defined in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004.

In this case, fulfilling your request would require the searching of all the individual medical records of all patients referred to the ophthalmology department during this time period a simple report is not available. The Trust has estimated that locating,

retrieving, and extracting the relevant information would significantly exceed the 18-hour threshold, even with reasonable efforts to narrow the scope.

We are therefore applying Section 12 of the Act and will not be proceeding with the request in its current form.

However, we would be happy to assist you in refining your request to bring it within the cost limit. For example, narrowing the timeframe, specifying particular departments, or focusing on a specific aspect of the information may help reduce the burden of compliance.

Please let us know if you would like support in revising your request.