

Ref. No: 2369  
Date: 18/02/26  
Subject: Gastroenterology New Patients

## REQUEST

How many new patients were treated by the Trust's Gastroenterology Department in the latest 3-month period of November, December and January (or the latest 3 months available) with the treatments I have provided below?

If you are able to, could you please provide the split of new patients who received their treatment for Crohn's disease and Ulcerative colitis? I have provided a table below. Some treatments can only be used for one condition, which I have blocked out.

Please can you define a "new patient" as a patient who has received any of the treatments listed below for the first time. If a patient received any of the below treatments before the 1st November 2025, they are not classed as a new patient for the purposes of this question.

	Total Gastroenterology Department	Crohn's Disease	Ulcerative Colitis
Adalimumab [Humira]			
Adalimumab [All Biosimilar]			
Etrasimod			
Filgotinib			
Golimumab			
Guselkumab			
Infliximab [Remicade]			
Infliximab [All Biosimilar]			
Mirikizumab			
Ozanimod			
Risankizumab			
Tofacitinib			
Upadacitinib			
Ustekinumab [Stelara]			
Ustekinumab [All Biosimilar]			
Vedolizumab			

## RESPONSE

### 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 an individual member of staff to review all the medical records of the clinics and then a full review of the medications this time has been estimated to take in excess of 450 Hours. 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.