

Ref. No: 2524
Date: 23rd April 2026
Subject: Asthma New Patients

REQUEST

1. How many new patients were treated for Asthma by the Trusts Respiratory Department in the latest 4 month period (December - March 2026) with the treatments I have provided below?

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 August 2025, they can be classed as a new patient for the purposes of this question.

- Cinqaero (Reslizumab)
- Dupixent (Dupilumab)
- Fasenra (Benralizumab)
- Nucala (Mepolizumab)
- Tezpire (Tezepelumab)
- Xolair (Omalizumab)

2. How many new patients were treated for Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) by the Trust's Respiratory Department in the latest 4-month period (December - March 2026) with the treatments I have provided below?

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 August 2025, they can be classed as a new patient for the purposes of this question.

- Dupixent (Dupilumab)
- Nucala (Mepolizumab)

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 we are unable to provide data as Outpatient data is not recorded based on diagnosis. This would mean that it would mean reading all the asthma case notes for all clinic attendees

It would not be accurate to only provide inpatients as patients could be prescribed the drugs through an outpatient setting and could have been given a 'new' diagnosis of asthma in an outpatient setting. Therefore, fulfilling your request would require at least 30 hours to read through the asthma case notes for this time period.

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.