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Velindre Cancer Centre

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Prifysgol Felindre  
Velindre University NHS Trust Headquarters

2 Cwrt Charnwood  
Heol Billingsley  
Parc Nantgarw  
Caerdydd/Cardiff  
CF15 7QZ

Ffôn/Phone : (029) 20196161

<https://velindre.nhs.wales>

Date: 11<sup>th</sup> April 2023  
Ref: CORP 2023-057

Dear \*\*\*\*\*

**Freedom of Information request: Treatment with Nivolumab- CORP 2023-057**

Thank you for your request for the following information which the Trust received on the 31<sup>st</sup> of March 2023.

Your Request:

Wilmington Healthcare is seeking to understand the initiation of patient treatment with Nivolumab and some additional products in different types of cancer. We would greatly appreciate if you could answer the following questions:

Q1. In the last 3 months, how many patients have been initiated\* on the following agents for the treatment of melanoma?

- Ipilimumab (monotherapy)
- Nivolumab (monotherapy)
- Nivolumab AND Ipilimumab (combination)
- Pembrolizumab
- Any Targeted Therapy (Dabrafenib /Dabrafenib AND Trametinib /Encorafenib AND Binimetinib /Trametinib /Vemurafenib /Vemurafenib AND Cobimetinib)
- Other active systemic anti-cancer therapy

\*Patients are considered initiated if they have not been treated in the previous 6 months with any of the drugs that are part of the named regimen.

Q2. In the last 3 months, how many patients have been initiated\* on the following agents for the treatment of Renal Cell Carcinoma?

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- Nivolumab (monotherapy)
- Nivolumab + Ipilimumab
- Nivolumab + Cabozantinib
- Avelumab + Axitinib

\*Patients are considered initiated if they have not been treated in the previous 6 months with any of the drugs that are part of the named regimen.

Q3. In the past 3 months, how many patients have been initiated\* on the following agents for treatment of Oesophageal Cancer:

- Nivolumab monotherapy or in combination with Ipilimumab
- Nivolumab in combination with Platinum (Cisplatin or Oxaliplatin) and Fluoropyrimidene (5-Fluorouracil or Capecitabine)
- Pembrolizumab in combination with Platinum (Cisplatin or Oxaliplatin) and Fluoropyrimidene (5-Fluorouracil or Capecitabine)

\*Patients are considered initiated if they have not been treated in the previous 6 months with any of the drugs that are part of the named regimen.

The Trust's response:

The Trust has reviewed your request which is correctly formatted and complies with Section 8 of the Freedom of Information Act.

This letter acts as a refusal notice under Section 17 of the Act. The reasons for refusal are articulated below:

The resources required to provide a response will exceed the appropriate limit as articulated within Section 12(1) and 12(2) of the Act.

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This is because to meet your request will require a review of all of the patients records as the information will be recorded in the free text annotations and not in the structured fields within Trust clinical systems'. Therefore the Trust has applied an Exemption under Section 12(1) (1) and (2) which states that:

- (1) *Section 1(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.*
- (2) *Subsection (1) does not exempt the public authority from its obligation to comply with paragraph (a) of section 1(1) unless the estimated cost of complying with that paragraph alone would exceed the appropriate limit.*

Section 6 (page 23) of the [Freedom of Information Code of Practice](#) defines the appropriate limit as 18 hours or a cost of £450 at a flat rate of £25 per hour. The Trust has calculated that to provide the data to you would take 27 hours at a rate of £25 per hour to achieve the extraction of the data task, at a cost of £675.

I trust this answers your request for information, however, should you not be satisfied with the information supplied or the process of supplying it, you have a right to complain and request a review, please note that the request for a review must be provided to the Trust within 40 days of the date of this letter.

You should forward your complaint to:-

Mr Ian Bevan via [FOI.VUNHST@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:FOI.VUNHST@wales.nhs.uk)  
Head of Information Governance  
Velindre University NHS Trust  
2, Charnwood Court  
Heol Billingsley  
Parc Nantgarw  
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Tel / Ffon - 029 20196161

Should you wish to take your complaint further, if you are still unhappy with the decision after review, you can contact the:-

Information Commissioner's Office - Wales

2nd Floor,  
Churchill House,  
Churchill Way,  
Cardiff,  
CF10 2HH  
Telephone: 0330 414 6421  
email: [wales@ico.org.uk](mailto:wales@ico.org.uk)

Yours sincerely,

Lauren Fear  
Director of Corporate Governance and Chief of Staff  
Velindre University NHS Trust  
2 Charnwood Court  
Heol Billingsley  
Parc Nantgarw  
Cardiff  
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