

Building 5  
Porton Down  
Salisbury  
Wiltshire  
SP4 OJQ

T 01980 61 3121  
F 01980 65 8400

Dstl is part of the  
Ministry of Defence

dstlfoi@dstl.gov.uk  
www.dstl.gov.uk



Our ref: FOI 2015/01889  
Your ref:

12 March 2015

Dear \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your email of 17 February 2015 requesting the following information:

*"I would like to make a freedom of information request in regards to a clinical trial Dstl conducted in 1997*

*I have had sight of the trial report and note one of the volunteers was released early from the trial after suffering upper respiratory illness".*

We are treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and we can confirm the following information in scope of your request is held.

For ease of reference, our responses are provided against each of your four questions as supplied by you, numbered, in turn below.

**Question 1.** "What was the volunteer number you assigned to this individual ?"

**Answer 1.** Section 40(2) has been applied to this information in order to protect personal information as governed by the Data Protection Act 1998. Section 40 is an absolute exemption and there is, therefore, no requirement to consider the public interest in making a decision to withhold the information.

**Question 2.** "I understand the volunteer was administered the drug, or so I was informed by \_\_\_\_\_, please confirm ?"

**Answer 2.** We can confirm that the volunteer withdrawn from the trial because of an upper respiratory tract infection was in the group given placebo patches that contained neither of the active drugs.

**Question 3.** “What was the condition that volunteer suffered with ?”

**Answer 3.** As stated in the study report, the volunteer was withdrawn from the trial because he developed an upper respiratory tract infection.

**Question 4.** “Has that volunteer or other involved within this trial contacted your organisation to complain of ill health ?”

**Answer 4.** Other than yourself, Dstl holds no record of any volunteers who took part in this study contacting Dstl Porton Down, either to request information about the trial or to complain of ill health.

If you are not satisfied with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail [CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk](mailto:CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk)). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, <http://www.ico.gov.uk>.

Yours sincerely

Dstl Secretariat