



## By email

Our ref: 03/06/lh/78

1 July 2014

Dear

### Re: Whole body Thermoluminescent Dosemeter (TLDs)

Thank you for your email dated 3 June 2014 in which you asked for the number of whole body TLDs issued per year for each of the past 5 years to the close of 2013.

Your email has been handled as a request for information under the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act. In accordance with Section 1(1)(a) of the Act I can confirm that Public Health England (PHE) does hold the information requested.

You asked:

*The number of Whole Body TLDs issued per year for each of the past 5 years to the close of 2013.*

With respect to the number of whole body TLDs issued per year for each of the past 5 years, we have given consideration to the Section 43(2) – *Commercial interests* exemption which states that a public authority may refuse to disclose information if it would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the public authority holding it). This exemption is contingent on the outcome of a balance of public interest favouring non-disclosure.

PHE offers a Personal Dosimetry Service (PDS) which is based on its extensive expertise in radiological protection and is underpinned by continuing research and development. PDS provides a high-quality dosimetry service capable of measuring and recording radiation doses received by our customers and their employees. All our services are Approved Dosimetry Services (ADS) - they have been approved by the British Health and Safety Executive under the Ionising Radiations Regulations 1999. All dosimeters are assessed in laboratories within the UK. The information about year-on-year changes could be used by our commercial competitors to deduce information about our clients and our client base. Furthermore, the information could be used, together with publicly-available information on commercial tenders to infer what prices we have been paying for our supplies which would hinder our commercial interests.

PHE considers that, on balance and in all circumstances of the case, the public interest in withholding information in respect to disclosing the amount of whole body TLDs issued per year for each of the past 5 years outweighs the benefits of disclosing the information.

Under the Section 16 duty to provide advice and assistance the average number of dosimeters issued per year is already available in the public domain (see <https://www.phe-protectionservices.org.uk/pds/service/> )

If you have any queries regarding the information that has been supplied to you, please refer them to me in the first instance. If you are dissatisfied with this response and would like to request an internal review, then please contact Mr George Stafford at the address above or by emailing [internalreview@phe.gov.uk](mailto:internalreview@phe.gov.uk)

Please note that you have the right to an independent review by the Information Commissioner's Office if a complaint cannot be resolved through the PHE complaints procedure. The Information Commissioner's Office can be contacted by writing to Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Officer