

**FOI 23/049**

23<sup>rd</sup> January 2023

Dear

Thank you for your email and we apologise for delay in response and that you did not receive an FOI reference.

Regarding your request for information on *"I am aware that there is a contraceptive similar to Nuvaring, the vaginal ring. Annovera, a ring which is replaced annually rather than monthly, and which uses a different kind of estrogen (I believe) to Nuvaring was approved in the US a number of years ago, and is still not available here. Can you tell me when it will be available in the U.K. please?"*

MHRA neither confirms nor denies that it holds information falling within the description specified in your request. The duty in Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000 does not apply, by virtue of Section 41 (Information provided in confidence) and Section 43 (Commercial interests) of that Act. This should not be taken as an indication that the information you requested is or is not held by the department.

Section 41 is an absolute exemption and no consideration of the public interest is required, except to state that we consider its disclosure to constitute an actionable breach of confidence.

Section 43 is a qualified exemption and a consideration of the public interest should be made. We have considered the public interest and cannot see any public interest argument that outweighs the commercial harm in alerting competitors to whether a rival product is trying to come onto the market or not. Examples of public interest arguments would be a major public health risk or a major procedural failure or irregularity.

If you have a query about the information provided, please reply to this email

If you disagree with how we have interpreted the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in answering your request, you can ask for an internal review. Please reply to this email, within two months of this reply, specifying that you would like an Internal Review to be carried out

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you were to remain dissatisfied with the outcome of the internal review, you would have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Please bear in mind that the Information Commissioner will not normally review our handling of your request unless you have first contacted us to conduct an internal review. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House

Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

Kind Regards,

**MHRA Customer Experience Centre**