

FOI 23/068

26th February 2023

Dear

Thank you for your email of 24 January 2023, in response to our reply to FOI 22/1113 where you requested the following:

1. How many Yellow Cards for the covid-19 vaccines included a report of a Coroner's Inquest?
2. How many Yellow Cards for the covid-19 vaccines included a report of a post mortem?
3. How many inquests concerning Covid-19 vaccines have MHRA given evidence to?

For 1), the MHRA would only hold the requested information if it was provided voluntarily by the reporter. This is not required information for a Yellow Card to be deemed valid and there is no structured data field in our safety database to indicate whether an Inquest had taken place in relation to that Yellow Card report. Therefore, to determine whether any Yellow Card reports concerning a COVID-19 vaccine as a suspected drug concern an individual whose death was subject to an Inquest a manual search of each report would need to be undertaken. Due to the total number of Yellow Card reports we have received relating to the COVID-19 vaccines this is unfortunately not feasible to do within the appropriate cost limits to respond to an FOI.

Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit, which for central government is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 24 working hours in determining whether the department holds the information, locating, retrieving and extracting the information. Based on the large number of ADR reports received since the beginning of the COVID-19 vaccination programme, and how this data would be extracted and presented, we estimate that it will take in excess of 24 working hours to respond to this request. Furthermore, despite obligation under Section 16(1), of the FOI Act to provide assistance to anyone making a request, in this case we cannot reasonably suggest clarification

In response to 2), 103 Yellow Card reports have the 'post-mortem on file' flag checked, indicating that a post mortem was conducted for the patient.

In response to 3), as of 23 February 2023, the MHRA has given evidence (including provision of a written statement or oral evidence at the Inquest) at 12 Inquests concerning COVID-19 vaccines.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of this response; and can be addressed to this email address.

Yours sincerely,

FOI Team,