

FOI 23/003

10th March 2023

Dear

Thank you for your request under the Freedom of Information Act. Please accept our apologies for the delay in response.

We have undertaken searches of the mailboxes which are used by Dr Raine and Dr Cave for emails in scope of your request over the timeframe specified. Due to the volume of results returned, it is not possible for us to process your request any further. Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act allows public authorities to refuse requests 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. The searches we have conducted are returning between 729 and 2,531 items. As you are aware, we regulate blood and blood products and have set up searches to try and reduce the number of items that simply reference 'blood' as whilst we cannot say with certainty that they will not be in scope of your request, we think it reasonable to try and reduce the overall volume of items before reviewing the material further.

We judge that we would need between two and three minutes to review each item we have returned, though this may be a conservative estimate where there are attachments involved. We therefore judge your request to fall within Section 12.

We would ask you to please consider refining your request by reducing the date range from three months to two months.

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

Yours sincerely

MHRA Customer Experience Centre
Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency
10 South Colonnade, Canary Wharf, London E14 4PU