

FOI 23/308 – procurement of medicines

REQUEST

18 April 2023

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, to request the following information:

1. What was the arrangement for procurement of medicines/drugs for Papua New Guinea through the British Pharmacopeia?
2. What sort of processes were involved in this procurement process?
3. When did Papua New Guinea start procuring its medicines/drug supplies through the British Pharmacopeia?
4. Is this arrangement ongoing?
5. If not, when did this arrangement stop?
6. What sorts of medicines did they procure through British Pharmacopeia?
7. How much did this cost annually and how often was procurement?
8. Did any issues arise out of this procurement through British Pharmacopeia such as faulty or contaminated medicines/drugs?
9. If so, what medicines did this involve and what was the issue?
10. What sort of processes were used to rectify this?
11. Correspondences such as emails/letters on the procurement between British Pharmacopeia and Papua New Guinea to be included if any.

MHRA RESPONSE

2 May 2023

Thank you for your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

The British Pharmacopoeia (BP) is a book of quality standards for medicines, which are legally binding in the UK.

We sell the BP as a hardcopy or online subscription to customers around the world. We also sell BP Chemical Reference Substances (BPCRS), which are for laboratory use in applying the test methods in the BP, to customers around the world. These are not medicines and are not for human consumption.

I can confirm that the BP is not and has never been a supplier of any medicines/drugs for human use. There are no current, nor have there been in the past, any arrangements for procurement of medicines/drugs for Papua New Guinea through the British Pharmacopoeia. We therefore do not hold the information you requested.

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 you receive this response and addressed to: info@mhra.gov.uk

If you remain dissatisfied following any internal review, you may ask the Information Commissioner (ICO) to decide on whether or not we have interpreted the FOIA correctly in dealing with the request and subsequent internal review. 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 ICO's address is:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely

MHRA Customer Experience Centre
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