Medicines & Healthcare products
Regulatory Agency

10 South Colonnade
Canary Wharf
London
E14 4PU
United Kingdom
gov.uk/mhra

[redacted]

FOI 23/293

17 May 2023

Dear [redacted]

Thank you for your email of 19th April 2023 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

You have requested details as follows:

- The number of incidents National Institute for Biological Standards and Control reported to the HSE in the last five years
- The nature of each of those incidents (e.g., were workers exposed to pathogens, if so which pathogens, how were the proximate causes of the accident)

I can confirm under Section 1(1)(a) of the FOI Act, that the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (the Agency) does hold the information requested.

The details requested are listed in the appendix attached.

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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

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
Communications and engagement team
Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency
10 South Colonnade, Canary Wharf, London E14 4PU

Appendix
Summary of incidents that were notified to the Health and Safety Executive, at the MHRA, between 01 April 2018 and 19th April 2023.

The Duty Holder in all cases was the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency

Date	Description
27/09/2018	**RIDDOR Occupational Disease:** During vibration testing for powered gardening equipment, the gardener complained of discomfort in his hands, the survey was halted at this point. Following a medical diagnosis of HAVS, a RIDDOR report was made.
09/10/2020	**RIDDOR Over 7-day injury:** The injured person hurt his back when moving an obsolete coffee machine from a trolley to the waste compound.
26/11/2020	**RIDDOR Dangerous Occurrence:** Spillage outside Class I MSC of liquid potentially contaminated with SARS-CoV2 due to a leak of the outer container. The primary container remained intact. Assessment confirmed no leakage therefore no loss of containment.
02/11/2021	**RIDDOR Over 7-day injury:** Person was exiting a laboratory area. They forgot to switch the light off and put their hand through the gap as the door was closing. Their left ring finger got caught in the door which resulted in the injury.
10/02/2022	**RIDDOR Dangerous Occurrence:** A staff member received a bite wound from a SARS-CoV-2 infected hamster (through two pairs of gloves, including leather gloves) while carrying out a regulatory procedure (oral swab). No subsequent infection occurred due to this accident.
24/03/2022	**RIDDOR Dangerous Occurrence:** A staff member received a cut on the finger while performing a procedure on SARS-CoV-2 infected hamsters. The hamster had a low viral load, SARS-CoV-2 is not a blood-borne virus and staff triple vaccinated indicative of low chances of developing SARS-CoV-2 infection due to the incident. No subsequent infection occurred due to this accident.
14/07/2022	**RIDDOR Dangerous Occurrence:** Biological filter not connected to CL3 autoclave (this is only a mandatory requirement for HG4 waste and is determined by risk assessment for lower levels of containment). As waste is inactivated prior to autoclaving, the risk of exposure to biological agents is extremely low. No exposure to pathogens.
03/10/2022	**RIDDOR Dangerous Occurrence:** Steam leak identified from the seal around the temperature and environmental probes going into the autoclave chamber [where Hazard Group 2 influenza virus could be handled] No exposure to pathogens.

Date	Description
18/11/2022	**RIDDOR Dangerous Occurrence:** While carrying out a routine procedure involving [Hazard Group (HG) 2 influenza] infected eggs (in [Containment Level] CL3), staff observed liquid (from an egg) prior to transferring the eggs to the Microbiological Safety Cabinet. The eggs were contained in a plastic rack at the time, they had been placed on the bench after being chilled in the freezer, in accordance with the Standard Operating Procedure. Due to the pathogen being HG2 the HSE highlighted this as not requiring reporting, post hoc.