FOI 23/286

Dear

Many thanks for your Freedom of Information (FOI) requests, where you requested the following information:

> *On 12th December, the Medicines for Women's Health Expert Advisory Group considered and made recommendations on an application to reclassify the legal status of supply of a contraceptive medicine without a prescription.*
>
> - *Please confirm if the contraceptive medicine that was considered at this meeting is a form of oral emergency contraception - BPAS 1*
> - *Minutes from the meeting of the Medicines for Women's Health Expert Advisory Group on 12th December which relate to the application to reclassify the legal status of supply of a contraceptive medicine without a prescription - BPAS 2*
> - *Materials shared with the Medicines for Women's Health Expert Advisory Group to review as part of the consideration of a reclassification of a contraceptive method at their meeting on 12th December - BPAS 3*
> - *Details of meetings between the MHRA and officials at the Department of Health regarding the reclassification of any contraceptive method from 1st January 2022 to 31st March 2023. BPAS 4*
> - *Details of meetings between the MHRA and Ministers at the Department of Health regarding the reclassification of any contraceptive method from 1st January 2022 to 31st March 2023. BPAS 5*
>
> *On 12th December, the Medicines for Women's Health Expert Advisory Group considered and made recommendations on an application to reclassify the legal status of supply of a contraceptive medicine without a prescription.*
>
> - *Please confirm the category of contraceptive medicine that was considered at this meeting. BPAS 6*

Regarding the **minutes and materials shared for the meeting of the Medicines for Women's Health Expert Advisory Group (MWEAG) on 12 December**, please see attached redacted versions of the minutes of that meeting and the paper that was shared for that meeting. The redacted information is withheld under either Section 40 (personal information), Section 41 (information provided in confidence) or Section 43 (commercial interests) of the FOI Act.

Section 40 and Section 41 are absolute exemptions and no consideration of the public interest is required, except to state for Section 41 that we would consider the release of this information to be an actionable breach of confidence. Section 43 requires that we consider the public interest in applying this exemption. We have considered the public interest arguments and cannot see any arguments that outweighs the commercial harm in divulging the product (or providing information

whereby the product concerned can be determined), which will alert competitors to the marketing authorisation holder's regulatory strategy regarding this product.

Regarding your questions "**please confirm if the contraceptive medicine that was considered at this meeting is a form of oral emergency contraception**" and "**please confirm the category of contraceptive medicine that was considered at this meeting**", this information is available in the MWEAG minutes and the summary CHM minutes from 15 December 2022 (please see page 2 in the link below): https://app.box.com/s/jv487awvqzzsrdql0o34h9gg350ceyd4/file/1249144723665

Regarding the below questions:

- **Details of meetings between the MHRA and officials at the Department of Health regarding the reclassification of any contraceptive method from 1st January 2022 to 31st March 2023**
- **Details of meetings between the MHRA and Ministers at the Department of Health regarding the reclassification of any contraceptive method from 1st January 2022 to 31st March 2023**

MHRA can confirm that no meeting have taken place that match the descriptions above from 1st January 2022 to 31st March 2023.

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

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