

FOI 23-057

Dear

I am writing to provide the response to your request FOI 23/057, which you made on 24 January 2023:

Please can you send me MHRA's reply to the following letters from DHSC DepCMO (Prof Van Tam) and Dir/Emergency Preparedness & Health Protection (Emma Reed) to MHRA CEO (Dame June Raine)

a) Letter dated 17 November 2020 (ref 201117_Letter to MHRA from DHSC Pfizer R174 authorisation)

b) Letter dated 24 November 2020 (ref 20201124 Letter to June Raine AZ R174 Auth)

c) Letter dated 24 December 2020 (ref 241220 DHSC letter to MHRA Moderna R174 Auth)

First of all, I apologise once again for the extended delay in responding to your request. We have experienced delays in our request handling over a period of time and I am working with colleagues to address these.

Further to my email of 27 June 2023, the additional search was conducted, and I can confirm that we do not hold the information that you have described in your request. Under section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act, we do not hold this information.

To explain why this is, during the Covid-19 pandemic, the MHRA did not rely on delegated authority. Decisions were instead taken directly by the Minister. On each occasion, the Minister would be provided with a draft response, and they issued a final formal response to the R174 letters. I appreciate that, had your request not been caught in delays earlier this year, this could have been explained sooner and I apologise for this.

I will forward a copy of this response to the ICO.

If you disagree with how we have interpreted the Freedom of Information Act 2000 with regards to your request, you can ask for the decision to be reviewed. The review will be carried out by a senior member of the Agency who was not involved with the original decision.

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

Lou Lander

Freedom of Information Manager

MHRA Customer Experience Centre

Communications and engagement team

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