Medicines & Healthcare products Regulatory Agency

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

[redacted]

11th December 2023

Dear [redacted]

FOI 23/957

Thank you for your initial email dated 29 November 2023 and your follow-up correspondence dated 6 November 2023, where you requested '*the number of confirmed incidents relating to specifically battery related fires on electric wheelchairs or mobility scooters in the last 12 months'.*

The MHRA codes medical devices within adverse incident reports using the Global Medical Device Nomenclature (GMDN). GMDN is a system of internationally agreed generic descriptors used to identify medical device products. As per your request we have conducted a search for all incident reports containing the GMDN CT code CT2045 (Electric-motor-driven wheelchairs) or CT1211 (Assistive scooters). Following this search, we reviewed the adverse incident reports to ascertain how many concerned battery related fires. I can confirm that the MHRA has received **2** UK adverse incident reports associated with these GMDN CT codes and battery related fires between 1 January 2023 and 6 November 2023.

When considering the data provided within this response, please consider the below information:

- Inclusion of a report on our adverse incident database does not necessarily mean the events described were caused by that device but could be due to unrelated patient/user factors.
- The figures provided above are not the same as complication rates.
- Reports do not necessarily represent an individual patient. Individuals may report an incident at any time after the event and people can make multiple reports at any time after the use of device and on the same issue.

- Where possible, multiple reports for the same event are linked. However, as reporters are not required to complete all fields, we cannot always be sure enough to link every duplicate.
- It should be noted that this information may include a range of recognised complications related to this type of procedure and does not necessarily indicate a fault with any particular device.
- The numbers may include reports where the incident has been taken from published literature or the report may be about notification of a safety communication.
- These numbers of reports are accurate at the time they are extracted from our database and minor changes in the numbers can occur if the reporter of the incident gives us more details at a later date.

I hope the information provided is helpful, but 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 of this response; and can be addressed to this email address.

Yours sincerely,

FOI Team
Safety and Surveillance
Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency

If you have a query about this email, please contact us. If you are unhappy with our decision, you may ask for it to be reviewed. That review will be undertaken by a senior member of the Agency who has not previously been involved in your request. If you wish to pursue that option please write to the Communications Directorate, Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency, (via this email address).

After that, if you remain dissatisfied, you may ask the Information Commissioner at:
Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF