



Medicines & Healthcare products
Regulatory Agency

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[REDACTED]

25 October 2023

Internal review of FOI 23/614

Dear [REDACTED]

We write in response to your request for an internal review of your information request, FOI 23/614.

Your request was dated **16/08/2023**, and you asked for:

“The number of ‘submitted notified’ disposable vape products (Electronic Cigarette – Disposable) for the following years 2020,2021,2022,2023 (to date)”

The MHRA refused your request on 30 August 2023, applying section 12 of the FOI Act and explaining that to provide the information you had requested would exceed the 24 hour appropriate limit in FOI; this was because manual review would need to be undertaken of over 100,000 notifications in order to identify those that had been withdrawn and to provide an accurate data set.

Advice and assistance was provided in the form of links to published information, advice on how to search this information was provided, and a suggestion was made for how you could narrow your request.

You sought a review of this decision on 30 August 2023:

Thank you for sending through your reply. However, MHRA already holds a database called
<https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fcms.mhra.gov.uk%2Fecig-new&data=05%7C01%7CMHRACustomerServices%40mhra.gov.uk%7C8ec4f6d8738742221b8508dba9669497%7Ce527ea5c62584cd2a27f8bd237ec4c2>



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[6%7C0%7C0%7C638290030276889739%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljojMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=cS2hJYW53v5kV1k3t11MWBWI8vPZtofUTEZ%2FRQMYFlo%3D&reserved=0](#)

This provides a searchable function covering all ecig products. Can you revisit this decision?

We have undertaken a thorough review of the handling of your request. While we understand the reasons for the application of section 12, and agree that the process of manual review that the response described would indeed take a minimum of five minutes per record to identify those that had been withdrawn, this review considered that the information specified in your request can be retrieved and provided within the appropriate limit.

While the intention to provide accurate information (including withdrawals) was made in good faith, your request does not require this to be done – the request asks for “*The number of ‘submitted notified’ disposable vape products*” in the specified years. The total number of ‘submitted notified’ does not need those subsequently withdrawn to be identified and removed; it asks only for the total number submitted.

We are therefore providing this information; please see the data requested below, with additional information to provide the total number of notifications for all products by financial year (including disposables).

Note: the MHRA record data by financial year and not calendar year. Therefore, the requested information is presented below in the same format.

23/24 - to date 24/08/2023

- Total product notifications – 6543
- Disposable notifications – 3250

22/23

- Total product notifications – 14009
- Disposable notifications - 7605

21/22

- Total product notifications 8410
- Disposable notifications - 3881

20/21

- Total product notifications – 4718
- Disposable notifications - 297



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19/20

- Total product notifications – 9501
- Disposable notifications – 458

As you are aware, notifications deemed compliant (Published) by the MHRA are publicly available at the following links and we include these details and advice on searching the published information for completeness.

- [Post Brexit Publications - GB](#)
- [Post Brexit Publications – NI](#)
- [Pre Brexit Publications - UK](#)

Each published product can be identified by year using their individual ECID or GBID. The second set of digits in each product ID identify the year of notification.

Example:

- E134547-23-00009 = 2023
- 01238-22-00003 = 2022
- 00057-17-00477 = 2017

Note: the information published is continually updated by submitters, these updates include product withdrawals and therefore will be accurate as of today's date but will not include any products published in that year that have been discontinued and withdrawn by the submitter.

We hope that this further disclosure is useful for you.

Yours sincerely,

MHRA E-Cigarette Unit

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you remain dissatisfied with the outcome of this internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow



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