Medicines & Healthcare products
Regulatory Agency

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

[redacted]

30 August 2023

FOI 23/614

Dear [redacted]

Thank you for your information request, dated **16/08/2023**, where you asked for:

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

On the basis of an assessment of time needed to locate, retrieve and extract all information relevant to your request, we are refusing your request as section 12(1) of the FOI Act is engaged. This applies when it would exceed 24 hours to complete these activities and retrieve all information within the scope of your request. From our assessment, we estimate an average of 5 minutes to review, record and cross reference the information per each notification. Retrieval of all information would require the manual assessment of approximately 100,000 notifications in order to identify the presence of any withdrawal submissions and the date the withdrawal, to accurately provide a historic data set by calendar year and product type.

For this reason, this request relating to a data assessment outlined above will be subject to a Section 12 Exemption, due to the time and costs that would be incurred by the MHRA. Please note that further requests of similar scope, and which would require a similar amount of retrieval, may also engage section 12.

We can provide advice on how you may reduce the scope of your request. Under the section 16 duty to assist, we suggest that you narrow your request to the following retrievable information:

- Total product notifications for each financial year
- Disposable notifications for each financial year

In addition, the MHRA are required to publish compliant notifications. This data may also provide the information you have requested.

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Notifications deemed compliant (Published) by the MHRA are publicly available at the following links.

- 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 are accurate as of today's date.

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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 have a query about the information provided, please reply to this email

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

Medicines & Healthcare products
Regulatory Agency

Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely,

MHRA E-Cigarette Unit