

FOI 23/045

Dear

Thank you for your request of 19 January 2023, under the Freedom of Information Act. We apologise for the long delay in this reply.

You requested:

- 1. Please send the date and time of all meetings or briefings between the MHRA and the Commission on Human Medicines Expert Working Group during 2020/2021*
- 2. Please send the date and time of all meetings or briefings between the MHRA and the COVID-19 Vaccines Safety Surveillance Methodologies Expert Working Group during 2020/2021*
- 3. Please send the minutes of all meetings or briefings between the MHRA and the Commission on Human Medicines Expert Working Group during 2020/2021*
- 4. Please send the minutes of all meetings or briefings between the MHRA and the COVID-19 Vaccines Safety Surveillance Methodologies Expert Working Group during 2020/2021*
- 5. Please send copies of all letters or emails between the MHRA and the Commission on Human Medicines Expert Working Group during 2020/2021*
- 6. Please send copies of all letters or emails between the COVID-19 Vaccines Safety Surveillance Methodologies Expert Working Group during 2020/2021*

We confirm that we hold some of the information you have requested, but in some cases we need clarification from you in order to address your request. We have added our responses under each of your 6 requests below.

1. Please send the date and time of all meetings or briefings between the MHRA and the Commission on Human Medicines Expert Working Group during 2020/2021

Can you please clarify which Commission on Human Medicines Expert Working Group you are referring to. Information on the various groups is [published on gov.uk](#)

2. Please send the date and time of all meetings or briefings between the MHRA and the COVID-19 Vaccines Safety Surveillance Methodologies Expert Working Group during 2020/2021

Meeting dates and time (for all meetings)

- 01. 28 May 2020 @ 10am
- 02. 25 June 2020 @ 10am
- 03. 23 July 2020 @ 11am
- 04. 27 October 2020 @ 10am

The group started on 28/05/2020 and concluded 27/11/2020.

3. Please send the minutes of all meetings or briefings between the MHRA and the Commission on Human Medicines Expert Working Group during 2020/2021

Can you please clarify which Commission on Human Medicines Expert Working Group you are referring to. Information on the various groups is [published on gov.uk](#)

4. Please send the minutes of all meetings or briefings between the MHRA and the COVID-19 Vaccines Safety Surveillance Methodologies Expert Working Group during 2020/2021

Please find copies of these minutes attached. Please note that redactions have been applied as described below.

For all minutes

Some names under Invited experts, visiting experts and observers have been left visible because they are already in the public domain under 'COVID-19 Vaccines Safety Surveillance Methodologies EWG' - [Membership - Commission on Human Medicines - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#). Those names which have been redacted are for those names which are not published.

There are also some redactions to names under the 'MHRA observers' section, these are in keeping with our established practice to redacting staff names based on seniority.

In both cases the information that has been redacted is exempt under Section 40 (Personal Information). Section 40 provides that personal information may be exempt from release where to do so would contravene data protection principles.

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 25th June 2020

In addition to the redactions described under 'For all minutes' above, redactions have been applied to the Conflict of Interest Policy section, between items 1.3 and 1.5. This was a welcome from the chair to one of the individuals whose name has been redacted from the list of attendees. This information is exempt under Section 40 (Personal Information). Section 40 provides that personal information may be exempt from release where to do so would contravene data protection principles.

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 23rd July 2020

In addition to the redactions described under 'For all minutes' above, redactions have been applied to the Conflict of Interest Policy section. This information covers apologies of observers and visiting experts. This information is exempt under Section 40 (Personal Information). Section 40 provides that personal information may be exempt from release where to do so would contravene data protection principles.

Please note that beneath the AOB section each set of minutes includes date(s) for future meetings, note that these were proposed dates at the time the meeting was held, they did not all take place.

5. Please send copies of all letters or emails between the MHRA and the Commission on Human Medicines Expert Working Group during 2020/2021

Can you please clarify which Commission on Human Medicines Expert Working Group you are referring to. Information on the various groups is [published on gov.uk](#)

6. Please send copies of all letters or emails between the COVID-19 Vaccines Safety Surveillance Methodologies Expert Working Group during 2020/2021

Can you please clarify for the above question:

- Does this refer to any emails between all group members i.e. internal emails?
- Or is it any emails between that group to anyone outside that group?
- Or is it any emails between that group to the MHRA?

We apologise once again for the long delay in this response.

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
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely

MHRA Customer Experience Centre

Communications and engagement team

Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency

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