

FOI 23/617

Dear

Thank you for your request dated 15 August 2023, where you asked the below questions, we have provided our responses below each question.

“1: I would like to make a freedom of information request. Could you please tell me how long the spike protein from the AstraZeneca covid vaccine will remain in my body.”

Our response:

Given the variance between individuals in terms of their own biology it is not possible for us to determine how long the spike protein will remain in your body.

We consider that the COVID-19 vaccines have acceptable safety and a positive benefit-risk balance. The public assessment reports (PARs) provided by the MHRA and the EMA, and other competent authorities are specifically written to give context of the overall assessment of the COVID-19 vaccines. The PARs are comprehensive documents and these highlight that the safety of each vaccine has been studied in both animals and humans. Please click [here](#) to access the public assessment report of the AstraZeneca vaccine.

“2: If the spike protein is permanent has it changed my DNA”

Our response:

AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine is non-replicating, meaning that no further copies of the adenovirus are produced in the body, and there is no evidence that the spike protein is ‘permanent’ in the body of an immunised person.

Studies with another Covid-19 vaccine, using very sensitive assays clearance of detectable levels of the spike protein in the blood correlated with production of antibodies which can be detected as early as day 5 post-vaccination, and which would be expected to occur with the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine (Ogata AF, et al. Circulating Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) Vaccine Antigen Detected in the Plasma of mRNA-1273 Vaccine Recipients. Clin Infect Dis. 2022 Mar 1;74(4):715-718). In addition, we are not aware of any mechanism whereby the spike protein can alter the DNA of the recipient.

We trust that you will find this information of use.

We have noticed that your request does not align with the typical criteria for a request for information under FOI. Please refer to the following guidance from the ICO on advice about how to write an effective request for information.

[How to write an effective request for information | ICO.](#)

Yours Sincerely,

HQA FOI Team

If you disagree with how we have interpreted the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in answering your request, you can ask for an internal review. Please reply to this email, within two months of this reply, specifying that you would like an Internal Review to be carried out.

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 online via an electronic form: <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/foi-and-eir-complaints/foi-and-eir-complaints/>

Or

by writing to:

Information Commissioner's Office

Wycliffe House

Water Lane

Wilmslow

Cheshire

SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely

MHRA Customer Service Centre

Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency

10 South Colonnade, Canary Wharf, London E14 4PU