

FOI 23/637

Dear

You asked for information relating to the number of staff who are allowed to work from abroad. You specifically asked, for the financial years 2020-1, 2021-2 and 2022-3 financial years for:

- *The number of staff, per year, given permission to work from abroad*
- *For each member of staff granted permission, please provide their pay band, the country they have been allowed to work from, the length of time that they have been allowed to work for and the dates they were allowed to work from abroad. Please also provide the reason. If any of this is not possible to provide, please provide the remaining information*

The MHRA has only kept information on staff applying to work overseas for personal reasons since August 2022. Approval for any such request is based on an assessment by our Information Security, Health and Safety and HR teams.

We hold most of the information you have requested from this date. However, we judge that some of it is exempt from disclosure under Section 40 of the Freedom of Information Act as it constitutes personal information about identifiable individuals. However, we can provide the below summary information:

- Since August 2022 to 19/9/23, 30 members of staff have applied and been given permission to work from overseas
- The grades range from EO to SCS
- The countries include India, France, Luxembourg, Portugal, Australia, Cyprus, Netherlands, Italy, New Zealand, Norway, Spain, Singapore, Ireland, Germany, Saudi Arabia.
- Our policy enables staff to apply to work overseas for a maximum of up to 4 weeks in any 12 month period. Whilst the MHRA tracker records approvals, it is unfortunately not explicit about the number of days in all cases (we will record this going forward).
- Reasons include to extend a family holiday with a period of working, personal family circumstances and compassionate grounds.

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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