

FOI 23/826

Dear

Thank you for our email of 23 October where you have asked:

"I specifically asked for information about myocarditis and blood clots"

We may hold the information in relation to your request, however, in this case we consider that Section 12 of the Freedom of information Act applies. Section 12 of the Act allows public authorities to refuse requests where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit, which for central government is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 24 working hours in determining whether the department holds the information, locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

The information we would need to locate to answer your request could be held in several different repositories within MHRA, each of which would require separate searches to first identify any documents of potential relevance. These searches would then need to be followed by manual review of retrieved documents to determine whether they contain information that would meet your request.

It is considered that identification of information that may be relevant to your request would involve the use of a Discovery Search Tool. Based on experience in using this tool to perform Agency-wide searches for documents, the time taken to set up and refine the search criteria, then extract and review the results to identify relevant records would take in excess of 24 hours.

In accordance with Section 16 of the FOI, concerning the provision of advice and assistance to those requesting information under FOI, we can advise that a way to narrow the scope of your request would be to limit the request to one vaccine and one specific safety topic. It may also be useful to identify the specific agencies you have in mind, as this may assist with more precise searches. We would also suggest identifying a specific or narrower timeframe to enable us to conduct searches and retrieve any relevant information within the appropriate limit of section 12. However please note that other exemptions may affect release of the requested data.

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

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