



Medicines & Healthcare products  
Regulatory Agency

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Canary Wharf  
London  
E14 4PU  
United Kingdom  
[gov.uk/mhra](https://www.gov.uk/mhra)

[REDACTED]

29 November 2023

FOI 23/837

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your information request, dated 01 November 2023, where you asked for the number of falsified, unlicensed and or illegally traded abortion medications seized by the MHRA in the calendar years 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 to date, specifically mifepristone and misoprostol.

I am pleased to provide you with the information requested, please see below.

The MHRA is the UK authority responsible for medicinal products for human use and medical devices. In Great Britain, the MHRA's Criminal Enforcement Unit enforces the Human Medicines Regulations 2012. In Northern Ireland enforcement is the responsibility of the Medicines Regulatory Group.

In the UK, Mifepristone and Misoprostol are available on prescription and are subject to additional control under the Abortion Act 1967. This legislation is governed by the Home Office and the law enforcement agency with responsibility for investigating suspected breaches of legal requirements is the Police.

Medicines legislation does not restrict personal importation of a prescription only medicine (POM) and MHRA is not involved in policy relating to abortions in the UK. Abortifacients seized at the UK Border by Border Force are notified to the Police.

The number of Mifepristone and Misoprostol pills seized by MHRA in the calendar years 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 to date was NIL.

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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](mailto: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,

Bureau Team

Criminal Enforcement Unit