

## FOI 23/858

Dear

Further to our earlier correspondence, I am writing in response to your request of 2 November 2023, which we logged as FOI 23/858:

*I would like to see -*

*a) a list of all FOI requests and disclosures in 2023*

*b) specifically, FOI 23/379.*

For part b) a copy of the response to request FOI 23/379 has been provided to you previously.

As explained in our correspondence below, we do hold the information you have asked for in part a) of your request, however this information is due to be published by the MHRA. We are therefore applying section 22(1) of the FOI; the information is exempt from disclosure because it is intended for future publication.

### Section 22

(1) Information is exempt information if—

(a) the information is held by the public authority with a view to its publication, by the authority or any other person, at some future date (whether determined or not),

(b) the information was already held with a view to such publication at the time when the request for information was made, and

(c) it is reasonable in all the circumstances that the information should be withheld from disclosure until the date referred to in paragraph (a).

Each of the three criteria for section 22(1) to be engaged is met in this case. The information is held by the MHRA with the settled expectation that it will be published at a future date in line with the best practice recommended in the Cabinet Office FOI Code of Practice. As stated in section 22(1)(a), it is not necessary for the date of publication to be determined for section 22(1) to apply; however, we can advise that we are working to commence publication of this information by 31 December 2023. We therefore consider that it is reasonable in all the circumstances, fair, and in line with accepted practices, to withhold the information requested ahead of the wider scheduled publication.

### *Public interest*

We have considered the public interest in disclosure or maintaining the exemption in this case. A factor in favour is the general principle in transparency, to provide for earlier release of this particular information. We also understand there is a public interest in making the information available for public scrutiny. However, responding to individual requests on an ad hoc basis while the information requested forms part of a scheduled approach to wider publication, creates an additional burden for staff and impacts on the existing approach to the process. As resource is now in place to take this process forward and a schedule agreed, we consider that this factor

strongly favours maintaining the exemption. We therefore consider that section 22(1) applies to the requested information at this time.

To assist, I can provide a list of the requests made to the MHRA up to July 2023, which was previously disclosed for another request, and this is provided in the attached PDF. Please note, where requesters included personal information or they have included their own or other names, we have withheld this under section 40(2) as personal information.

Please let me know if you have any queries.

Yours sincerely

**Lou Lander**

**Freedom of Information Manager**  
**MHRA Customer Experience Centre**  
Communications and engagement team  
Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency  
10 South Colonnade, Canary Wharf, London E14 4PU

### **Appeal Rights**

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). If you remain dissatisfied after the internal review, you may ask the Information Commissioner for a decision: <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/foi-and-eir-complaints/foi-and-eir-complaints/>