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20 December 2023

Dear [REDACTED]

**FOI 23/908**

Thank you for your email of 22 November 2023, where you requested disclosure of

- 1. Any documents, notes or presentations that were prepared for a JCVI meeting on the 25th Feb 2021 which representatives of the MHRA attended. I would also like to see any notes or action points taken during the meeting. According to the JCVI minutes, Dr Phil Bryan from the MHRA attended.*
- 2. On the 11th Feb 2021, representatives of the MHRA did a presentation on safety of vaccines to the JCVI. I would like to see this presentation please. According to the JCVI minutes, Jenn Matthissen was present as a speaker.*
- 3. According to the minutes of the meeting on the 11th Feb 2021, an analysis of adverse incident reports had been carried out. I would like to see this analysis please, including any raw data (please provide in an excel spreadsheet if possible)*
- 4. The minutes of the JCVI meeting (11th Feb) say the MHRA has conducted an analysis of the adverse events relating to Covid vaccines v influenza. I would like to see any summaries of this analysis please. As Mr Matthissen was the presenter, I believe he would have been sent this analysis.*
- 5. In the meeting on the 11th Feb 2021, the MHRA agreed to share with JCVI members the "expert working group paper" regarding yellow card data in relation to Covid vaccines. I would like to see this data please.*

We can confirm that we hold some of the information requested.

**JCVI COVID-19 Subcommittee meeting 25 February 2021: MHRA Observer: Dr Philip Bryan**

Dr Philip Bryan left the MHRA in March 2021. We do not hold any documents or notes related to preparation of the presentation Dr Bryan gave to the committee, nor do we hold any record of notes or action points taken during the meeting. We refer you to the JCVI minutes for details of what was presented by Dr Bryan. The minutes of the JCVI COVID-19 subcommittee can be found [here](#).



**JCVI COVID-19 Subcommittee meeting 11 February 2021. MHRA Observer: Jenn Matthissen**

This oral presentation of the topic referred to in requests 2 and 3 was based on the most recent [Coronavirus summary of Yellow Card reporting](#), which was that published on 4 February 2021. Please find a copy of the report attached.

For request 4, the analysis of the adverse events relating to Covid vaccines vs. influenza vaccines was based on a report taken to the Commission on Human Medicines' Expert Working Group on COVID-19 vaccine benefit-risk (COVID-19 VBR EWG) on 4 February 2021 which comprised an analysis of the nature and seriousness of adverse reactions with COVID-19 vaccines. Please find a redacted copy of this paper attached.

For request number 5, three assessment reports previously presented to the COVID-19 VBR EWG on 4 February 2021 were shared with the JCVI Chair following the 11 February 2021 JCVI COVID-19 subcommittee meeting. These were:

The report of analysis of the nature and seriousness of adverse reactions with COVID-19 vaccines (provided in response to request number 4)

In relation to relation to the report on Bell's palsy and myocarditis and update on COVID-19 vaccine AstraZeneca safety. MHRA are continuing to withhold some information in accordance with section 40(2) and section 41(1) of the FOI Act. We will explain these exemptions below. Section 40(2) applies when personal data relates to individuals. This information is withheld as it falls under the exemption in sections 40(2) and 40(3)(a)(i) of the FOIA, which relates to the personal data of which the applicant is not the data subject. Section 40(2) of the FOIA provides that personal data relating to other persons is exempt information if disclosure would breach the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA). We consider that disclosure of this information is likely to breach the first data protection principle in Schedule 1 to the DPA, which relates to the fair and lawful processing of personal data. Therefore, we have concluded that this information is exempt from disclosure under section 40(2) read in conjunction with section 40(3)(a)(i) of the FOIA.

Section 41(1) of the FOIA applies when information is provided to a public authority in confidence and states that: 41.—(1) Information is exempt information if — (a) it was obtained by the public authority from any other person (including another public authority), and, (b) the disclosure of the information to the public (otherwise than under this Act) by the public authority holding it would constitute a breach of confidence actionable by that or any other person.

I hope this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

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