Medicines & Healthcare products
Regulatory Agency

10 South Colonnade
Canary Wharf
London
E14 4PU
United Kingdom
gov.uk/mhra

04 December 2023

FOI 23/730

Dear [redacted]

Thank you for your enquiry of 03 October detailed below which has been classified as a Freedom of Information request with the reference number FOI 23/730.

“Can you please provide me with any correspondence with Eli Lilly regarding the sexual side effects of fluoxetine in rats:

1. I would like copies of any correspondence regarding studies into fluoxetine causing testicular toxicity in rats and fluoxetine disrupting the sexual development of male rats.

2. I would like to know whether the MHRA called for any studies to investigate the mechanisms by which fluoxetine causes this damage (testicular lesions and disrupted sexual development) in rats.”

Following a review of our files the following correspondence was identified.

- Email correspondence between MHRA/AFSSAP and Eli Lilly, 22/01/2009
- Cover Letter from Eli Lilly to MHRA/AFSSAP, 22/01/2009
- Response to toxicology questions from the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Authority and Agence Française de Sécurité Sanitaire des Produits de Santé (AFSSAP), as Joint Reference Member States for Fluoxetine Hydrochloride
- Email correspondence between AFSSAP/MHRA and Eli Lilly 22/10/2008
- Letter with Eli Lilly in copy from the AFSSAP, 22/10/2008
- Non-clinical follow up measure report for the paediatric indication, 14/10/2008

Copies of these documents are provided in annexes 1 to 6. This correspondence is associated with the regulatory procedure which followed the assessment and approval of an extension of the indication of fluoxetine to include the treatment of a moderate to severe major depressive episode, if depression is unresponsive to

psychological therapy after 4-6 sessions, in children and adolescents aged 8 years and above.

This procedure was associated with a specific post-approval obligation of Eli Lilly to commit to conduct additional preclinical studies to investigate the mechanism of toxicity of effects on the juvenile testes and delays in sexual maturation to determine their relevance to the intended paediatric patient population in 2006. In accordance with standard procedure in 2008 the completed studies were assessed, and at the end of the procedure the AFSSAP/MHRA asked further toxicology questions of Eli Lilly. The response to these questions is available at Annex 3.

We hope the information provided is helpful, but 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 of this response; and can be addressed to: info@mhra.gov.uk

Yours sincerely,

FOI Team
Safety and Surveillance
Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency

Annex 1. Email Correspondence between MHRA/AFSSAP and Eli Lilly, 22/01/2009

Annex 2: Cover Letter from Eli Lilly to MHRA/AFSSAP, 22/01/2009

Annex 3: Response to Toxicology Questions from the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Authority and Agence Française de Sécurité Sanitaire des Produits de Santé (AFSSAP), as Joint Reference Member States for Fluoxetine Hydrochloride

Annex 4: Email Correspondence between AFSSAP/MHRA and Eli Lilly 22/10/2008

Annex 5: Letter with Eli Lilly in copy from the AFSSAP, 22/10/2008

Annex 6: Non-clinical Follow Up Measure report for the paediatric indication, 14/10/2008