

FYI: FOI 24/028 response

MHRA Customer Services <MHRACustomerServices@mhra.gov.uk>

Mon 05/02/2024 18:25

To:MHRA Customer Services <MHRACustomerServices@mhra.gov.uk>;FOILicensing <FOILicensing@mhra.gov.uk>;  
Committee Services Team <CommitteeServicesTeam@mhra.gov.uk>

Now sent – thanks all.

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**From:** MHRA Customer Services

**Sent:** Monday, February 5, 2024 6:23 PM

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** FOI 24/028 response

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email , dated 08 January 2024, in which you stated:

*'I am making a freedom of information request for the following information:*

*BEIS identified members of the UK Vaccine Task Force expert advisory group in this  
press release dated 17 May 2020*

[www.gov.uk/government/news/funding-and-manufacturing-boost-for-uk-vaccine-programme](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/funding-and-manufacturing-boost-for-uk-vaccine-programme)

### **Expert Advisory Board members**

The expert advisory group advises, challenges and support the Vaccine Task Force in their goal to ensure that the UK population has access to clinically effective and safe vaccines as soon as possible.

Chair: Patrick Vallance - GCSA, Government Office for Science

- Jonathan Van Tam - Deputy Chief Medical Officer for England
- Charlotte Deane - Deputy Executive Chair of the EPSRC
- Robin Shattock - Head of Mucosal Infection and Immunity, Department of Medicine at Imperial College
- Sarah Gilbert - Professor of Vaccinology, Jenner Institute & Nuffield Department of Clinical Medicine
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- John Bell - Government Life Science's Champion and Regius Chair of Medicine at the University of Oxford
- Jeremy Farrar - Director at Wellcome Trust
- Menelas Pangalos - Executive Vice-President, BioPharmaceuticals R&D at AstraZeneca
- Ian McCubbin - Independent Pharma Specialist and Chair of Manufacturing Advisory Group
- Andrew Pollard - Professor of Paediatric Infection and Immunity at the University of Oxford
- Richard Hatchett - CEO, Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI)
- June Raine - Chief Executive at the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency
- Andrew Witty – WHO Vaccine Special Envoy
- Jeff Almond - former Vice President and Head of Discovery Research and External R&D at Sanofi Pasteur

*Which of these expert advisors attended Commission on Human Medicines Meetings on covid vaccines?*

*Please provide copies of the minutes of any CHM meetings at which these expert advisors were present.*

*On which dates during 2020 did members of this expert advisory group attend Commission on Human Medicines meetings about covid vaccines?*

*Which company's or companies' covid vaccine candidates were discussed at the meetings these expert advisors attended?*

*At which CHM meetings in 2020 was the Oxford AstraZeneca vaccine discussed?*

## **MHRA response**

Please see below our response to each of your questions.

### **Which of these expert advisors attended Commission on Human Medicines Meetings on covid vaccines?**

Please find below the details for 2020/2021:

- Dame June Raine, as an observer, attended Commission on Human Medicines (CHM) meetings on covid vaccines held during the period 2020/2021.
- Professor Jonathan Van-Tam attended CHM meetings on covid vaccines held during 2021, as an observer; he did not attend any CHM meetings on covid vaccines held in 2020.

The dates of the CHM meetings for covid vaccines which Dame June Raine and Professor Jonathan Van-Tam attended during 2020/2021 are provided below:

<b><u>Dame June Raine</u></b>	<b><u>Dame June Raine continued</u></b>	<b><u>Professor Jonathan Van-Tam</u></b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 30 November 2020</li> <li>• 24 December 2020</li> <li>• 31 December 2020</li> <li>• 21 January 2021</li> <li>• 27 March, 01 April, 04 April and 06 April 2021 (Extraordinary meetings)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 08 and 09 April 2021</li> <li>• 06 September 2021 (Extraordinary meeting)</li> <li>• 28 and 29 October 2021</li> <li>• 29 November 2021</li> <li>• 30 December 2021 (Extraordinary meeting)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 27 March, 01 April, 04 April and 06 April 2021 (Extraordinary meetings)</li> <li>• 05 August 2021</li> <li>• 06 September 2021 (Extraordinary meeting)</li> </ul>

**Please provide copies of the minutes of any CHM meetings at which these expert advisors were present.**

The published summary CHM meeting minutes are available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/commission-on-human-medicines/about/membership>

The minutes can be accessed by searching under the section 'Summary minutes' on the website page.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/commission-on-human-medicines/about/membership#summary-minutes>

**On which dates during 2020 did members of this expert advisory group attend Commission on Human Medicines meetings about covid vaccines?**

Please see above. Dame June Raine attended CHM meetings on covid vaccines held during 2020 on 30 November, 24 December and 31 December 2020. Prof Van-Tam attended no CHM meetings on covid vaccines held during 2020.

**Which company's or companies' covid vaccine candidates were discussed at the meetings these expert advisors attended?**

The following companies' covid vaccine candidates were discussed at the CHM meetings these expert advisors attended:

- AstraZeneca
- Moderna
- Pfizer/BioNTech

**At which CHM meetings in 2020 was the Oxford AstraZeneca vaccine discussed?**

In 2020, the Oxford AstraZeneca vaccine was discussed at the CHM meetings held on 24 December 2020 and 29 December 2020.

We trust that you will find this information of use. However, if you disagree with how we have interpreted the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in answering your request, you can ask us to review our actions and decisions by writing to: [info@mhra.gov.uk](mailto:info@mhra.gov.uk), and requesting an internal review.

Please note that your internal review request must be in a recordable format (email, letter, audio tape etc.), and that you have 40 working days upon receipt of this letter to ask for a review. We aim to provide a full response to your review request within 20 working days of its receipt. Please quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are not content 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 online via an electronic form: <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/foi-and-eir-complaints/foi-and-eir-complaints/>

Or in writing to:

Information Commissioner's Office,  
Wycliffe House,  
Water Lane,  
Wilmslow,  
Cheshire,  
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely,

HQA FOI Team

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 8, 2024 10:52 AM  
**To:** MHRA Customer Services <[MHRACustomerServices@mhra.gov.uk](mailto:MHRACustomerServices@mhra.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** FOI 24/028 - Freedom of information request

to whom it may concern,

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Which company's or companies' covid vaccine candidates were discussed at the meetings these expert advisors attended?

At which CHM meetings in 2020 was the Oxford AstraZeneca vaccine discussed?

Yours sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

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