



Medicines & Healthcare products
Regulatory Agency

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

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

16th February 2024

FOI 24/080

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your information request, dated 23 January 2024, where you requested:

“1. How many spinal strokes have been reported to the yellow card scheme in the last 3 years, after receiving a Covid vaccination?”

2. How many strokes have been reported in the last 3 years, after receiving a Covid vaccination?”

3. How many stroke claims have been made to the VDPS? And how many have been successful?”

In response to your first two requests, I can confirm that we do hold this information however it is exempt from release under Section 21 of the FOIA (Information accessible by other means), as this is already publicly available and can be found here: <https://yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk/idaps>.

The COVID-19 vaccine reports contain a complete listing of all suspected adverse reactions that have been reported to the MHRA via the Yellow Card scheme for all COVID-19 vaccines. This includes all reports received from healthcare professionals, members of the public, and pharmaceutical companies.

This information does not represent an overview of the potential side effects associated with the vaccines. A list of the recognised adverse effects of the COVID-19 vaccines is provided in the information for healthcare professionals and the recipient information [here](#).

Conclusions on the safety and risks of the vaccines cannot be made on the data shown in the reports alone. Therefore, when reviewing the data within the reports it



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is important to do so in the context of the essential guidance at the bottom of the report to ensure that you do not misinterpret the data.

Please also note that one report may contain multiple COVID-19 vaccinations and therefore the number of reports across each vaccine should not be combined.

In regard to your third question on the number of stroke claims which have been made to the Vaccine Damage Payment Scheme and the number of these which were successful, please be aware that the MHRA are the medicines regulator and do not hold data on compensation claims. The MHRA and the Yellow Card scheme has no relationship to the Vaccine Damage Payment Scheme. More information on the Vaccine Damage Payment Scheme <https://www.gov.uk/vaccine-damage-payment>. The NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) operates the VDPS on behalf of the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC). Information on how to make a Freedom of Information request to the NHSBSA can be found on their website ([Freedom of Information | NHSBSA](#)).

We hope you find this information useful. 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 this email address.

Yours sincerely,

FOI Team,
Safety and Surveillance

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Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you have a query about this email, please contact us. If you are unhappy with our decision, you may ask for it to be reviewed. That review will be undertaken by a senior member of the Agency who has not previously been involved in your request. If you wish to pursue that option please write to the Communications Directorate, 4-T, Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency, (via this email address). After that, if you remain dissatisfied, you may ask the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow



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Cheshire
SK9 5AF