



Medicines & Healthcare products
Regulatory Agency

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E14 4PU
United Kingdom
gov.uk/mhra

[REDACTED]

14 February 2024

Dear [REDACTED]

FOI 24/097

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request dated 20 January 2024 in which you requested from the MHRA *'the anonymised data that it holds, and which has been disclosed to AstraZeneca, Pfizer and Moderna regarding doses, dates and deaths relating to Covid 19 vaccines'*, and for your refinement dated 29 January 2024 which requested disclosure of *'communications with enclosures sent to Astra Zeneca, Pfizer and Moderna that you refer to'*.

To be able to respond to your request, we require further clarification surrounding the information you are seeking. Please refer to the response sent to you on 29 January (FOI 24/062) which explains the types of information the MHRA shares with pharmaceutical companies. Subsequently, please could you confirm what information you are requesting whereby you request *'communications with enclosures'* – are you requesting any email communication with attachments that was sent from an MHRA email address to AstraZeneca, Pfizer or Moderna concerning the COVID-19 vaccines?

If the above is correct, please may draw your attention to the following which was also stated in the response to your previous request. Identification of all information that may be relevant to your request would involve the use of a Discovery Search Tool. Based on experience in using this tool to perform Agency-wide searches for documents, the time taken to set up and refine the search criteria, then extract and review the results to identify relevant records, would take in excess of 24 hours. Therefore, this information is exempt from disclosure under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information (FOI) act.

Section 12 of the FOI Act specifies that a public authority may refuse requests where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit, which for central government is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 24 working hours in

determining whether the department holds the information, locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

In accordance with Section 16 of the FOI, concerning the provision of advice and assistance to those requesting information under FOI, you are advised to narrow the scope of your request and provide clarification on the exact information you wish to receive. For example, to one vaccine and a specific type of information, subset of data or safety topic. However, please note that other exemptions may affect release of the requested data. For example, due to data protection laws, we are unable to provide details that may identify a particular patient or reporter. As such, information such as date of death is exempt from disclosure under Section 40 (personal information) and Section 41 (information provided in confidence) of the FOI Act.

Clarification of your request can be sent to MHRACustomerServices@mhra.gov.uk. 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
Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency

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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:

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

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