Medicines & Healthcare products Regulatory Agency

MHRA
Regulating Medicines and Medical Devices

[redacted]

MHRA

10 South Colonnade
Canary Wharf
London
E14 4PU
United Kingdom

www.gov.uk/mhra

2nd February 2024

Dear [redacted],

FOI 24/046

Thank you for your FOI request dated 14th January 2024, where you requested the following information:

> *"I would like to apply for information related to statistics submitted on the Yellow Card system for illnesses/conditions reported following the introduction of the Covid Vaccine and also the flu vaccine for the same timescale.*
>
> *I am particular interested in autoimmune conditions such as skin and arthritic conditions i.e Psoriasis, Psoratic Arthritis, Eczema etc but as a comparison against other reported effects of the vaccines.*
>
> *A number of vaccines administered during that time would also be beneficial."*

Information concerning reports submitted to the Yellow Card scheme regarding the COVID-19 vaccines is publicly available online. The MHRA has been publishing 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, which you can find here.

Please find attached a Vaccine Analysis Print (VAP) which contains information on the reported adverse reactions for the flu vaccination (excluding nasal flu vaccine administered in the paediatric population). The attached guidance sheet provides you with further information on how to interpret the print.

When considering the spontaneous data within this response, it is important to be aware of the following points:

- A reported reaction does not necessarily mean it has been caused by the vaccine, only that the reporter had a suspicion it may have. Each year, millions of doses of routine vaccinations are given in the UK alone, and when any vaccine is administered to large numbers of people, some recipients will inevitably experience illness following vaccination. The fact that symptoms

occur after use of a vaccine or medicine, and are reported via the Yellow Card scheme, does not in itself mean that they are proven to have been caused by it. Underlying or concurrent illnesses may be responsible and such events can also be coincidental.

- It is also important to note that the number of reports received via the Yellow Card scheme does not directly equate to the number of people who suffer adverse reactions and therefore cannot be used to determine the incidence of a reaction or compare the safety profile of different vaccines. Reporting rates are influenced by the seriousness of the reaction, their ease of recognition, the extent of use and may be stimulated by promotion and publicity. Reporting tends to be highest for newly introduced medicines, vaccines during the first one to two years on the market and then falls over time.

As these data do not necessarily refer to proven side effects, you should refer to the product information which can be found here: https://products.mhra.gov.uk/ for details on the possible side effects of the vaccine.

Whilst we consider the number of vaccines administered as part of our safety analysis, the MHRA does not routinely hold information relating to numbers of vaccines administered. Please refer to the UK Health Security Agency who hold information on vaccine uptake in the UK: UKHSA data dashboard.

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 this email address.

Yours sincerely,

FOI Team,
Safety and Surveillance

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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