Medicines & Healthcare products Regulatory Agency

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

27 March 2024

Dear [redacted]

FOI 24/234

Thank you for your information request dated 6 March 2024 where you asked:

1. *Under FOI do either if you have data to support the fact you have tested vaccines for glyphosate contamination?*

2. *Have you both gone through the old manufacturers' leaflets auditing against the new ones to see what side effects they have removed for the last 50 years?*

For your first request, we can confirm that the MHRA does not hold the information requested. As advised in our response to you of 30/1/2024 (FOI 24/009), the MHRA has not tested vaccines for glyphosate contamination. All vaccines manufacturers must operate to Good Manufacturing Practices and their production facilities are regularly inspected by regulatory authorities to ensure that contaminants do not enter the manufacturing process.

Your second request does not meet the requirements for a valid FOI request on this occasion as it does not ask for recorded information. To assist, we can confirm that the MHRA has not audited old manufacturers leaflets against new product information to see what side effects have been removed. Information about the use, safety, and ingredients of medicines is included in the Summary of Product Characteristics (SPC) for healthcare professionals and the Patient Information Leaflet, PIL) for patients. SPCs and PILs for medicinal products authorised in the UK are approved by the MHRA, including any updates to these documents during the life cycle of the product. A link to the MHRA portal where you can search for the current SmPCs and PILs for authorised products is provided here: https://product.mhra.gov.uk .

We note that you have recently made several FOI requests to the MHRA (the current FOI 24/234 received on 06/03/2024, FOI 24/009 received on 31/01/2024, FOI 24/148 received on 12/02/2024 and FOI 24/149 received on 12/02/2024). We would like to refer you to our recent response to your FOI request FOI/149 in which we included a link to the Information Commissioner's (ICO's) website, where you can find guidance about what is and is not in scope of the FOIA, and advice on how to word an effective information request. You can access this guidance at: https://ico.org.uk/your-data-matters/official-information/

We particularly draw your attention to the ICO's recommendation that requesters should make clear requests for information, keep information requests separate from complaints about wider issues, should not make the same request more than once and should not make requests to 'punish' a public authority when you think they have done something wrong, as if these points are not followed, a request may be refused.

The ICO top tips and information to protect public money are provided below:

Top tips

To make information requests as efficiently and effectively as possible, we suggest you take this approach:

1. ***Search first.*** *Public authorities publish a great deal of information. You may find what you're looking for by searching online or looking at the website's sitemap. If the information is already in the public domain, it may be quicker to find it than ask for it.*
2. ***Keep it clear.*** *Make your request as simple and straightforward as possible. Use simple language. Numbered lists or bullet-points might help you to structure your request. In general, try to make it as easy as possible for the public authority to understand what you want to receive.*
3. ***Be nice.*** *Even if you're dissatisfied with the organisation, try to put that to one side and focus on the information you want to receive. If possible, keep your information request separate from any ongoing email threads or complaints about wider issues.*
4. ***Read it twice.*** *Before you send a request, take another look at it to make sure it's clear and easy to follow. If you're unsure, you could seek a second opinion from someone you know. They might spot something confusing that you can fix before you send the request. If the public authority has to ask you to clarify your request, it will take longer for you to receive the information you want.*

Protect public money

Gaining access to public information is your right and public bodies must respect that.

However, requests do cost public bodies time and money to respond to. This is public money and we need to make sure it's spent responsibly.

It is important that you don't submit frivolous or trivial requests.

You should not make requests for the same information more than once, unless the information has changed a lot.

You should not make requests as a way of 'punishing' a public body if you think they have done something wrong. If you do any of the above, the public body could consider your request vexatious and refuse to action it.

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,

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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
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SK9 5AF

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