Medicines & Healthcare products Regulatory Agency

[redacted]

MHRA Central Freedom of Information Team
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London
E14 4PU

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MHRA Website

Our Ref: **FOI 2026.00364**

29 April 2026

Dear [redacted]

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (FoI) request received on 02 April 2026. You wrote:

Under FOIA, please can you tell me the following:

The annual numbers of reports of impulsive behaviour side effects of dopamine agonist drugs for each of the years the MHRA holds data for. Please break down per a) type of impulsive behaviour (e.g. hypersexuality, gambling, shopping, eating) and b) provenance of report (e.g. clinician, patient or relative, manufacturer).

MHRA Response

We can confirm that the Agency holds this information. However, the information is exempt under Section 21(1) of the Freedom of Information Act because the information is reasonably accessible to you, as it is already in the public domain. Further information can be found on ICO Section 21 Guidance

The MHRA publishes reported side effects for medicines and vaccines in the form of interactive Drug Analysis Profiles (iDAPs) which can be accessed here: https://yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk/idaps.

You can view iDAPs for all dopamine agonist drugs of interest, these profiles are listed alphabetically on the website and are dynamic allowing you to use the filters on the left-hand side to interact and filter the data, for instance you can search for specified time periods, by reporter type ie Healthcare professional, Patient/carer or via Industry.

Please be aware that all reactions are coded on our database using the Medical Dictionary for Regulatory Activities[1] (MedDRA) which allows reactions to be grouped by System Organ Class (SOC), High Level Group Term (HLGT) High Level Term (HLT) and Preferred Term (PT). In regard to specific reactions terms, these can be viewed from the 'Total Reaction Profile' page on the iDAP, the table below lists how these terms are grouped, allowing you to find the reaction terms of interest.

[1] https://www.meddra.org/

System Organ Class	High Level Group Term	High Level Term	Preferred Term
Psychiatric disorders	Impulse control disorder NEC	Impulse control disorders	Impulsive behaviour
Psychiatric disorders	Psychiatric disorder NEC	Substance related and addictive disorders	Gambling disorder
Social circumstance	Lifestyle issues	Social issues NEC	Gambling
Psychiatric disorders	Sexual dysfunctions, disturbances and gender identity disorders	Sexual desire disorders	Hypersexuality
Psychiatric disorders	Anxiety disorders and symptoms	Obsessive-compulsive disorders and symptoms	Compulsive shopping
Psychiatric disorders	Eating disorders and disturbances	Eating disorders NEC	Eating disorder, Binge eating
Metabolism and nutrition disorder	Appetite and general nutrition disorders	Appetite disorders	Eating disorder

Please be aware, for possible side effects and warnings please refer to the Patient Information Leaflet (PIL) or the Summary of medicinal Products Characteristics (SmPC) for healthcare professionals. These documents can be accessed on the MHRA Products website (https://products.mhra.gov.uk/).

When considering spontaneous data for medicinal products, 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. The fact that symptoms occur after use of a 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 medicinal products. ADR reporting rates are influenced by the seriousness of ADRs, their ease of recognition, the extent of use of a particular medicine, and may be stimulated by promotion and publicity. Reporting tends to be highest for newly introduced medicines during the first one to two years on the market and then falls over time.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact us quoting the reference number above.

Yours sincerely,

Your right to complain under the Freedom of Information Act

If you are not happy with this response you may request an internal review by e-mailing foi.request@mhra.gov.uk or by writing to: MHRA Central Freedom of Information Team, 10 South, Colonnade, Canary Wharf, London, E14 4PU

Any request for an internal review must be received by us within 40 working days of the date of this letter. Please note we are not obliged to provide a review if it is requested after more than 40 working days.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office for a decision. Generally, the Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted our own complaints procedure. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF.
Website: ICO FOI and EIR complaints or telephone 0303 123 1113

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