Medicines & Healthcare products Regulatory Agency

[redacted]

MHRA Central Freedom of Information Team
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Canary Wharf
London
E14 4PU

foi.request@mhra.gov.uk.

MHRA Website

Our Ref: **FOI2025/00454**

5 June 2025

Dear [redacted]

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (FoI) request received on 11 May. You wrote:

> *I am writing to inquire about the iDAP (Interactive Drug Analysis Profiles) that you provide. I am interested in understanding the internal data preprocessing and cleaning methods and pathways employed before the adverse drug reaction (ADR) data is made available through iDAP. If possible, I would greatly appreciate any information you can provide regarding this process.*

MHRA Response

It may be helpful if we explain the role of the FoI Act. It provides a legal right of access to recorded information held by a public authority like the MHRA, subject to certain exemptions that may apply. The Act does not oblige a public authority to create new information to answer questions; nor does it require a public authority to give an opinion or explanation, generate answers to questions, or create or obtain information it does not hold.

If you ask a question, rather than requesting recorded information, we will provide you with the recorded information that best answers the question. Once we have provided the recorded information, we have met our obligations under the Act; interpreting the information provided is up to you.

Your request asks a question which you want us to respond to. This would need new information to be created.

We do not hold any recorded information to answer your request and will therefore not be progressing your request any further.

However, you may find the following explanation useful. If you'd like to continue exploring this topic, the following approach may help:

Request Specific Documents or Records

Frame your request around whether specific documents exist. For example:
“Please provide any internal standard operating procedures (SOPs), guidelines, or technical documentation relating to the data cleaning or preprocessing of ADR data prior to its publication through iDAP.”

“Please provide any recorded information that outlines the data processing pipeline or methodology used to prepare ADR data for iDAP.”

Use the Language of Records

Asking for documents, manuals, logs, flowcharts, or datasets increases the chances that your request will align with FOIA requirements, even if the information is limited.

Keep the Scope Manageable

If you're unsure how much material may exist, you can limit your request by:

- Timeframe (e.g., documents created since 2020)
- Document type (e.g., internal guidance or technical notes)
- Format (e.g., presentations, reports, memos)

While the information you are seeking may not be formally recorded in a way that is disclosable under FOIA, carefully framing your request around known or likely document types can improve your chances of obtaining useful material.

Yours sincerely,

MHRA Central Freedom of Information Team
Medicines & Healthcare products Regulatory Agency

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 freedom-of-information-request@MHRA.gov.uk or by writing to: MHRA Central FoI 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.

Re-use of our information
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