



## Medicines & Healthcare products Regulatory Agency

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

[foi.request@mhra.gov.uk](mailto:foi.request@mhra.gov.uk)

[MHRA Website](https://www.mhra.gov.uk)

Our Ref: **FOI2025/00296**

24 April 2025

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (FoI) request received on 25 March. You wrote:

*Please confirm the total number of suspected reactions in association with GLP-1 receptor agonists indicated (used) for weight management only (NB: please do not include hospitalisations where the indication includes diabetes).*

*Please confirm how many of these suspected reactions reported the hospitalisation of the individual.*

*In addition, please supply details of the ten most common suspected reactions which led to the hospitalisations.*

*How many reports has the MHRA received of pulmonary aspiration during surgical procedures in patients receiving GLP-1 drugs for any indication?*

### MHRA Response

I can confirm that we hold the information falling within the description specified in your request, however we have determined that your request falls under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act, and we cannot process your request any further.

This is because we estimate the cost of providing the requested information would exceed the cost limit of £600 specified in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. This represents the estimated cost of at least one person spending 3½ working days (equivalent to 24 staff-hours) in determining whether the Agency holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting it.

Due to the way in which the data is held on our database, it would require manual review of all reports of GLP-1 receptor agonists (Ras) in order to identify reports where the indication has been reported as weight management only. Up to and including 31 March 2025 the MHRA has received over 23,000 UK spontaneous suspected adverse reaction reports in association with GLP-1 receptor agonists where the reported indication includes weight management. We estimate that it would take approximately 30 seconds to review an individual report for indication, as such it would take over 190 hours to complete this request.

Additionally, regarding the last part of your request concerning the number of reports received of pulmonary aspiration during surgical procedures in patients receiving GLP-1 RAs would also require manual review. Information concerning the circumstances or procedure occurring is not captured in structured data fields. Instead, this information, if reported at all, would be included in the free text narrative field on a Yellow Card report and as such manual review is required to determine whether pulmonary aspiration occurred during a surgical procedure or not and as such would be relevant to provide.

Under Section 16 of the FoI Act we should help you narrow your request so that it may fall beneath the cost limit. We are able to provide data relating to GLP-1 receptor agonists where at least one indication reported is for weight management, i.e. some reports may include weight management and diabetes as the indication for use. If you are interested in receiving this data, extraction via our data management systems is possible and manual review would not be required. Due to the small number of reports related to pulmonary aspiration we can provide this to you in a new request. Please submit any new requests for information considering the above advice.

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

Yours sincerely,

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

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## **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](mailto: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 Contact Information](#) or telephone 0303 123 1113.

## **Re-use of our information**

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<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3/>