



Medicines & Healthcare products
Regulatory Agency

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

foi.request@mhra.gov.uk.

[MHRA Website](#)

Our Ref: **FOI2026/01089**

30 September 2026

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (FoI) request received on 17 September. You wrote:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 I would like to request the following information held by Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency.

- 1. Total spend in the last complete financial year on interim, agency or contract staff working in project management, programme management, PMO, business change or ICT infrastructure roles broken down by supplier or agency where that is held.*
- 2. The number of such interim or contract workers engaged at the date of this request, by role type.*
- 3. The name of any framework, agency agreement or managed service provider through which those workers are engaged.*

If the request would exceed the appropriate cost limit, please answer part 1 alone.

I would prefer to receive the response by email.

MHRA Response

We can confirm that the Agency holds the information you are seeking, however it is exempt under Section 21(1) and under Section 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act. We have provided further information below.

MHRA is committed to transparency regarding the use of public funds and already publishes information relating to its expenditure and procurement activity through publicly available sources.

Information on MHRA's overall expenditure, including workforce-related costs, can be found in the Agency's Annual Report and Accounts, available at:

- [Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency Annual Report and Accounts 2025 to 2026 - GOV.UK](#)

In addition, details of contracts awarded by MHRA are publicly available through the Government's procurement transparency portal:

- <https://www.contractsfinder.service.gov.uk/>

These sources provide information regarding MHRA's expenditure and contractual arrangements and enable public scrutiny of how public money is spent.

MHRA considers that disclosure of the further breakdown requested is exempt under Section 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (Commercial Interests).

Section 43(2) exempts information which, if disclosed, would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of any person including a public authority. It protects not only the commercial interests of third parties but also the commercial interests of the Agency. It is intended to protect the ability of a public authority like MHRA to obtain goods or services on the best possible commercial terms and to protect the legitimate commercial interests of its suppliers. The information you seek falls into this category.

The information already published through MHRA's Annual Report and Accounts and Contracts Finder satisfies a significant proportion of the public interest in transparency regarding the Agency's use of contingent labour and procurement of external services. The additional information requested would provide a substantially greater level of detail, including supplier-specific expenditure, workforce deployment information and contractual arrangements.

Although individual elements of the requested information may appear limited in isolation, disclosure must be considered alongside information already available in the public domain. When combined with MHRA's published financial and procurement information, the requested breakdown would enable third parties to derive detailed insights into MHRA's contingent labour strategy, supplier utilisation, workforce requirements and commercial arrangements.

We recognise there is a public interest in transparency regarding the expenditure of public funds and the delivery of our services. However, we consider that this is outweighed by the public interest in protecting MHRA's ability to secure value for money and conduct future procurement, contract management and commercial negotiations effectively.

MHRA considers that disclosure of this additional level of detail would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of both MHRA and relevant suppliers. In particular, it could weaken MHRA's position in future procurement and commercial negotiations and reveal information about suppliers' commercial relationships and market positions that is not otherwise publicly available in this form.

On balance we are satisfied that, in this instance, the public interest in applying the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

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

Yours sincerely,

MHRA Central Freedom of Information Team

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.

Re-use of our information

The MHRA information supplied in response to your request is subject to Crown copyright. Information created by the MHRA which is disclosed under the Freedom of Information Act is made available for re-use under the Open Government Licence (OGL) v3.0, except where this is otherwise stated. There are some restrictions on re-use under the OGL and these can be viewed here:

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