Medicines & Healthcare products Regulatory Agency

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

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MHRA Website

[redacted]

Our Ref: **FOI2024/00335**

13 August 2024

Dear [redacted],

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (FoI) request received on 22 July. You wrote:

> *Under the UKs Freedom of Information Act, I would like to request:*
>
> * *A summary of the number of investigations the MHRA is leading or contributing to regarding counterfeit semaglutide (Ozempic, Wegovy, Rybelsus) found in the UK in 2023 and 2024.*
> * *A summary of the number of investigations the MHRA is leading or contributing to regarding counterfeit semaglutide (Ozempic, Wegovy, Rybelsus) sent through the UK in 2023 and 2024.*
> * *A summary of the number of arrests made or court cases started to the MHRA's knowledge related to counterfeit semaglutide (Ozempic, Wegovy, Rybelsus) found in the UK or elsewhere in 2023 and 2024.*

MHRA Response

We confirm that we hold the information you have requested.

We interpret 'counterfeit' to refer to a falsified medicinal product, as per regulation regulation 8(1) of the Human Medicines Regulations 2012.

We work with the manufacturers and licensed wholesalers of medicines to keep the regulated supply chain secure. This includes sharing information with other regulators and law enforcement agencies, as necessary.

No falsified Ozempic has been seized in the UK since the autumn of 2023. We have seen no falsified Wegovy, to date. We have not seen falsified Rybelsus, to date.

The MHRA has undertaken eight investigations regarding falsified Ozempic. These include five small importations detected at the UK border and where falsified Ozempic was detected at two UK based wholesalers. A further investigation was undertaken to identify the source of falsified Ozempic that was reported in Northern Ireland. Please note, enforcement activity in Northern Ireland is undertaken by the Medicines Regulatory Group, not the MHRA's Criminal Enforcement Unit.

The MHRA has several enforcement outcomes available to it, including prosecution, where necessary. No arrests or prosecutions are anticipated because of MHRA investigations into falsified Ozempic within Great Britain. Following regulatory action by the MHRA one of the wholesalers that imported falsified Ozempic into the UK surrendered its license.

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

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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