Medicines & Healthcare products Regulatory Agency

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MHRA Website

[redacted]

Our Ref: **FOI2026/00160**

11 March 2026

Dea[redacted]

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (FoI) request received on 14 February. You wrote:

I would like to request the following information:
Re "The Commission on Human Medicines CHM advises ministers on the safety, efficacy and quality of medicinal products: -
As the CSM was replaced by CHM during October 2005 my request may be held in CSM documents.
Please can you supply all the information you supplied to minsters on the safety and efficacy regarding the following drugs prior to the Anne Begg Co-proxamol debates in parliament during 2005 and 2007.
- *Co-proxamol*
- *Oxycodone*
- *Buprenorphine*
- *Codeine*
- *Tramadol*

MHRA Response

We can confirm we hold information requested, but it is exempt from disclosure under Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act.

This is because we estimate the cost of searching for and identifying 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.

Under Section 12(1) of the FoI Act the Agency is not therefore obliged to comply with your request and we will not be processing it further. The reason being that owing to the dates of discussion, the documents are archived and are not available in digital form. It is also unclear whether the documents would be indexed correctly. We have previously provided available digital information in your previous requests concerning the CSM/CHM discussions on the safety of Co-proxamol with the reasons for withdrawal from the market.

Under Section 16 of the FoI Act we should help you narrow your request so that it may fall beneath the cost limit. To bring the request within the cost limit, you may wish to narrow the scope to a single medicine, as there are many licences for each medicine and each licence would have been assessed separately for efficacy, safety and quality prior to authorisation.

You may find it helpful that since 2005 the product information for all these medicines has been updated on numerous occasions with additional safety information. The current product information for each medicine is available at: MHRA Products | Home. You may be interested to see the reduction in fatalities following the cancellation of the licences for co-proxamol, available from data published by the Office for National Statistics.

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 Contact Information or telephone 0303 123 1113.

Re-use of our information
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