



Medicines & Healthcare products
Regulatory Agency

MHRA Central Freedom of
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[MHRA Website](#)

Our Ref: **FOI2026/00420**

19 May 2026

Dear 

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (Fol) request received on 20 April. You wrote:

This request follows your Internal Review decision IR2026/00280 dated 30 March 2026, in which the Agency placed the following on record: 'All MHRA documents were included in the search, across departments and teams, including expert committees'; 'All documents the Agency holds were included in the search, including all documents submitted by stakeholders to the MHRA'; 'The search scope was not limited to documents explicitly labelled as oncology-related assessments.' This request tests and narrows that scope statement rather than expanding it.

DHSC has confirmed (FOI-1672956, acknowledged in FOI-1680035) that searches of departmental systems using oncology-related terms returned over 1,600 items. MHRA's position in FOI2026/00153, FOI2026/00239 and IR2026/00280 is that no formal oncology risk assessment was conducted, commissioned or received. The request below probes a specific, narrow subset of MHRA holdings that falls inside the IR2026/00280 scope statement.

Request

- 1. Please provide the minutes, agendas, or formal action records of: (a) the Commission on Human Medicines (CHM); and (b) the CHM Vaccines Expert Working Group (VEWG), covering the period 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2023, where the minuted discussion references any of: p53, DNA-damage response, tumour suppressor, genotoxicity, spike protein pharmacology, immune surveillance, or BRCA1/BRCA2.*
- 2. Please identify the named MHRA officer or role accountable for the search undertaken in response to FOI2026/00153 and upheld in IR2026/00280, and the named officer accountable for the comprehensive-search statement quoted above.*
- 3. Please confirm that 'stakeholder submissions' as referenced in IR2026/00280 includes marketing authorisation dossiers, toxicology summaries, and pharmacology submissions from COVID-19 vaccine authorisation holders (Pfizer/BioNTech, Moderna, Oxford/AstraZeneca, Novavax, Valneva, Janssen).*
- 4. In the event that no such CHM or VEWG minutes exist for the period specified, please confirm explicitly in those terms, given that such a confirmation will establish the outer boundary of the IR2026/00280 scope statement.*

Scope and cost

This request is deliberately narrow: two named committees, a four-year window, a specific list of scientific terms, and a binary question on the boundary of an already-disclosed scope statement. It is not a campaign request and is not aggregable with

unrelated correspondence under Section 12(4). The request tests the integrity of a statement the Agency has itself placed on the public record.

MHRA Response

The Agency has completed its search for the information you have requested and we are able to confirm that we do hold some of the information you have requested.

Regarding your first point, we can confirm that the Agency holds this information. However, the information is exempt under Section 21(1) of the Freedom of Information Act because the information is reasonably accessible to you, as it is already in the public domain.

However, to be helpful you can find the minutes you seek from the specified time period [here](#) and [here](#).

Regarding your second point, we are unable to provide you with some of the information requested as it constitutes personal data of someone other than yourself and as such, it is being withheld in accordance with section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act.

Section 40(2) exempts information in response to a request if it is personal data belonging to an individual other than the requester and it satisfies one of the conditions listed in the legislation. In this case the condition contained in section 40(3A)(a) applies - that disclosure would breach one of the data protection principles, specifically that "Personal data shall be processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner...".

We do not consider that disclosing this information is necessary or justified in order to satisfy your information request and the requirements of the FoI Act. In relation to this request, we consider that there is no strong legitimate interest that would override the prejudice to the rights and freedoms of the data subject. Personal data are subject to UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018.

Regarding your third point, as explained in IR2026/00280, the scope of the search conducted in response to FOI2026/00153 included all MHRA documents across departments and teams, including expert committees and documents submitted by stakeholders. As such, I can confirm that any documents considered as "*marketing authorisation dossiers, toxicology summaries, and pharmacology submissions from COVID-19 vaccine authorisation holders*" would have been included in the search if held by the MHRA.

Regarding your fourth point, as referenced earlier, these minutes are publicly available.

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.

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/>