



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](https://www.mhra.gov.uk)

Our Ref: **FOI2025/00452**

3 June 2025

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (FOI) request received on 7 May 2025. You wrote:

We'd like to request the names and professional contact details of those who oversee the MHRA licensing drafting & publication processes.

MHRA Response

We can confirm that we hold the information you are requesting, however we are withholding it from disclosure as the information is exempt under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. We will set out our reasoning below.

We are unable to provide 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

MHRA maintains the following policy on disclosure of personal information:

"All personal information held in MHRA records is regarded as confidential. Information will not normally be disclosed to third parties without the consent of the person concerned. Information may normally be disclosed without consent to meet statutory requirements; to

comply with a court order; to prevent duplication of payments from public funds; or where there is a compelling public interest in making the disclosure."

All disclosures made by MHRA, in order to be considered authorised must be able to demonstrate that at least one of the above criteria apply.

Under the FOI Act, MHRA is not obliged to confirm or deny that it holds personal information about third parties, but in any event, even if it was held, the Agency would not disclose personal information to you about the names and professional contact details of MHRA staff.

Further to the above, we also believe that the request for names and professional contact details of MHRA staff is exempt from disclosure under Section 38(1) of the FOI Act (Health and Safety). Further information on the application of this section of the FOI Act is provided below:

38 -(1) Information is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to-

- (a) endanger the physical or mental health of any individual, or*
- (b) endanger the safety of any individual.*

The use of Section 38 requires that we consider the public interest. We have considered the public interest and can find no public interest argument that outweighs the harm caused by publishing names and contact details of MHRA staff. This can lead to harassment from activists and pressure groups, resulting in mental and possibly physical harm coming to staff members from such people.

As required by the FOI Act, the use of this qualified exemption requires the public interest for and against disclosure to be assessed.

We recognise that there is a public interest in knowing names of staff members who are involved in the authorisation of medicines at MHRA and maybe wanting to contact them individually with questions or concerns about specific medicines.

However, when considering arguments against disclosure we must balance this against the overall health and safety of the individual(s) that this information pertains to. It is only fair and proper that we protect these people from potentially being targeted in some way that could endanger their physical and/or mental health. There is a very significant risk that disclosure would, or would be likely to, further endanger the mental health and wellbeing of staff members if they are named and their contact details provided. For example, we are aware of activist groups (for example, animal rights protestors), who have targeted MHRA in the past and held demonstrations outside our offices.

On balance, the MHRA is satisfied that in this instance the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure. Therefore, the information you seek will not be released.

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/>