



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: **FOI2026/00854**

19 August 2026

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (FoI) request received on 3 August. You wrote:

I am making the following request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in relation to the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA).

For the last two completed financial years (or, if simpler, the last 24 months), please provide:

- 1. The total number of Freedom of Information requests received by the MHRA.*
- 2. The total number of those requests that proceeded to an internal review.*
- 3. If held, copies of the final FOIA response letters issued in relation to those requests.*
- 4. If held, copies of the internal review outcome letters relating to those requests.*

For the avoidance of doubt, I am requesting only the final response letters and internal review outcome letters. I am not requesting the underlying correspondence, internal emails, records considered during the requests, or the information requested by the applicants.

Where necessary, personal data and any information exempt from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act may be redacted.

If compliance with parts 3 or 4 would exceed the appropriate cost limit under section 12 of the Act, I would be grateful if you would:

- provide the information requested in parts 1 and 2;*
- comply with your duty to provide advice and assistance under section 16 by advising how the request may be refined;*
- indicate the approximate number of final response letters and internal review outcome letters held for the requested period;*
- indicate the maximum number of response letters and/or internal review outcome letters that could reasonably be disclosed within the cost limit; and*
- advise whether the response letters could be disclosed in chronological batches (for example, by month, quarter, or in batches of 50 or 100 letters), so that I may submit a*

series of refined requests.

If any of the requested information is already publicly available, please direct me to the relevant publication or provide the appropriate links.

MHRA Response

We confirm that we hold the information you have requested, however some information is exempt from disclosure. For ease we will address each point individually

1. The total number of Freedom of Information requests received by the MHRA.

Financial Year	Volume
2024/25	1065
2025/26	1176

2. The total number of those requests that proceeded to an internal review.

Please note that we have provided the volumes or internal reviews (IR) by financial year, this may mean that an IR received in the April of each year may be attributable to an FOI received and responded to at the end of the previous financial year.

Financial Year	Volume
2024/25	49
2025/26	59

3. If held, copies of the final FOIA response letters issued in relation to those requests.

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 information you seek at [Freedom of information \(FOI\) releases from MHRA - Disclosure log](#)

4. If held, copies of the internal review outcome letters relating to those requests.

Under Section 14(1) of the Fol Act, public authorities are not obliged to comply with a request which is deemed vexatious. By way of clarification it is the request which is treated as vexatious not the person making the request.

A request may be treated as vexatious, if the amount of time required to review and prepare the information for disclosure would impose a grossly oppressive burden on the organisation.

A vexatious request is assessed with reference to all the circumstances of an individual case. There are four broad themes to consider when looking at whether an Fol request(s) is vexatious. These four themes are:

1. the burden (on the public authority and its staff);
2. the motive (of the requester);
3. the value or serious purpose (of the request); and
4. any harassment or distress (of and to staff).

These four broad themes are not a checklist, and they are not exhaustive they simply emphasise that a range of factors need to be considered when apply Section 14(1).

In this case, the Agency is treating your request as vexatious for the following reasons:

1. the burden (on the public authority and its staff);

Responses to all FOI requests, including Internal Reviews (IRs), are held within a secure case management system that operates under strict access controls to ensure compliance with GDPR requirements. Access to these records is therefore restricted to members of the Central FOI Team.

To fulfil this element of the request, a member of the team would need to access each of the 108 cases individually, download the relevant responses, and review them to determine whether any further redactions are required, including the removal of personal data or other exempt information.

Given that the Central FOI Team consists of only two members of staff, undertaking this exercise would require a significant commitment of resources and would substantially reduce the team's capacity to triage new requests, provide advice and assistance across the agency on existing cases, maintain the publication scheme, and carry out other core FOI functions.

Diverting resources to this work would have a detrimental impact on the agency's ability to meet its statutory obligations and maintain transparency through the effective handling and publication of FOI requests.

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/>