Medicines & Healthcare products Regulatory Agency

MHRA Central Freedom of Information Team
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MHRA Website

[redacted]

Our Ref: **FOI2026/00153**

11 March 2026

Dear [redacted]

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (FoI) request received on 13 February. You wrote:

> *I request the following information held by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA):*
> *1. Oncology-Related Risk Assessments*
> *Please confirm whether the MHRA conducted, commissioned, or received any internal risk assessment, briefing paper, or expert review between January 2019 and December 2023 concerning potential interactions between SARS-CoV-2 spike protein expression (including mRNA or adenovirus vector platforms) and:*
> - *p53 pathway modulation*
> - *BRCA1/BRCA2 pathways*
> - *DNA damage response mechanisms*
> - *tumour suppressor gene regulation*
> - *immune surveillance impairment*
> - *cancer progression or recurrence*
>
> *If such documents exist, please provide:*
> *a) The title of each document*
> *b) The date of creation*
> *c) The authoring department or committee*
> *d) Any executive summary or conclusion section*
> *If no such assessment was conducted, please confirm that fact.*
> *2. Comparative Platform Safety Assessment*
> *Please confirm whether the MHRA conducted any comparative safety assessment between:*
> - *mRNA vaccine platforms*
> - *Adenovirus vector platforms*
> - *Inactivated whole-virus platforms*
>
> *Specifically in relation to long-term oncological risk or tumour-suppressor interaction.*
> *If such comparative assessments were conducted, please provide:*
> *a) The title and date of the assessment*
> *b) Minutes of any committee meeting where comparative oncological safety was discussed*
> *c) Any formal risk classification outcome*
> *If no comparative oncological assessment was conducted, please confirm that fact.*
> *3. Cancer Patient Guidance Consideration*

Please confirm whether the MHRA formally considered issuing guidance specific to cancer patients or oncology consultation prior to administration of COVID-19 vaccines.
If such consideration occurred, please provide:
a) Records of internal discussions
b) Committee minutes
c) Draft guidance documents
d) Any risk-benefit analysis specific to oncology patients
If no such consideration occurred, please confirm that fact.
Clarification and Cost Limit
This request is limited to formal assessments, briefing papers, committee minutes, or executive summaries. It does not require a full keyword search across all correspondence.
If you consider any part of this request likely to exceed the appropriate cost limit under Section 12, please advise under your duty pursuant to Section 16 how the request may be refined to fall within statutory limits.

MHRA Response

Following a search of our paper and electronic records, we have established that the information you requested is not held by this Agency.

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has not produced an *'Oncology-Related Risk Assessment'* as detailed in your request, and did not conduct, commission or receive an internal risk assessment, briefing paper, or expert review between January 2019 and December 2023 concerning *'potential interactions between SARS-CoV-2 spike protein expression (including mRNA or adenovirus vector platforms)'* and the factors you list in your request.

As is standard practice, the MHRA has not performed a comparative safety assessment between mRNA vaccine platforms, adenovirus vector platforms or inactivated whole-virus platforms in relation to *'long-term oncological risk or tumour-suppressor interaction'*.

It is not within MHRA's remit to cross-compare the benefit risk evaluations of different vaccine products (or of any products). Instead, the MHRA assesses the safety, quality and effectiveness evidence available for a given product as presented by the manufacturer and from all available evidence and evaluates that against the regulatory standards for that medicine, not against the benefit risk of any existing products.

There is no comparative safety 'test' in the current medicines legislation. Decisions about vaccine policy, including which of the vaccines to recommend to different patient groups, are made by JCVI. Its decisions may supersede those of the regulator, for example in recommending off-label use.

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
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https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3/