



Medicines & Healthcare products  
Regulatory Agency

MHRA Central Freedom of  
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[MHRA Website](https://www.mhra.gov.uk)

Our Ref: **FOI2026/01009**

6 October 2026

Dea [REDACTED]

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (Fol) request received on 8 September. You wrote:

*I am writing to ask how often the MHRA has employed people using an Aliens' Certificate in the last five years? If it would not result in any deanonymisation please break this down by civil service grade.*

*What exercises were undertaken to ensure that:*

- \* there is no suitably qualified UK national available for employment in that post; or*
- \* the alien possesses exceptional qualifications or experience for employment in that post.*

## MHRA Response

We confirm that we hold the information you have requested.

The MHRA have issued one alien certificate in the last five years. Due to the limited number of certificates issued, we are unable to provide a breakdown by Civil Service grade, as disclosure could lead to the identification of an individual. This information is therefore withheld under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (personal information).

The individual was appointed through a Fair and Open recruitment campaign which complied with the Civil Service Recruitment Principles. The panel considered that the successful candidate was the best fit for the role when considered against the key skills and requirements for the role.

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

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## **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](mailto: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](https://ico.org.uk/for-the-public/foi/) or telephone 0303 123 1113.

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