Medicines & Healthcare products Regulatory Agency

MHRA Central Freedom of Information Team
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MHRA Website

[redacted]

Our Ref: **FOI2024/00746**

18 December 2024

Dear [redacted]

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (FoI) request received on 27 November. You wrote:

> *Please can I have data showing the quantities of illicit supplies of the following medicines that have been seized by the MHRA, or MHRA-related operations, in each of the previous five years?*
>
> *I am trying to establish whether there has been an increase in the seizure of illicit and/or counterfeit drugs used among fitness and bodybuilding enthusiasts (i.e. steroids).*
>
> *Please provide the substance name, total quantity seized and estimated street value, for 2023, 2022, 2021, 2020 and 2019, if possible - or the closest comparable time periods.*
>
> *I have compiled the list in consultation with an expert - if the MHRA has its own categorisation for drugs used for fitness, sport and/or bodybuilding, please use that instead and subtitle it with substance names.*
>
> *In the absence of the above, please provide data for the following substances:*
>
> *Testosterone*
>
> *Trenbolone*
>
> *Nandrolone*
>
> *Fluoxymesterone*
>
> *Clomifene*
>
> *Ostarine*

Kigtropin

Clenbuterol

MHRA Response

We confirm that we hold some of the information you have requested and provide it below.

The MHRA is primarily responsible for regulating human medicines that hold a Marketing Authorisation, which means they meet the statutory standards for safety, quality and efficacy.

Substances that are considered harmful to human health are subject to enhanced controls under UK legislation. Specifically, The Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 regulates the production, supply and possession of controlled drugs in the UK. The act is complemented by the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001, which set out exceptions that allow the lawful possession and use of certain controlled drugs for medical, dental and veterinary use.

Except for clomifene, which is a prescription-only product, the list of medicines provided have been classified as controlled drugs and fall within the ambit of UK law enforcement, such as the National Crime Agency, regional police forces and Home Office Border Force. To obtain seizure data for controlled drugs, we suggest your enquiry is directed to the Home Office.

One product, ostarine, is a Selective Androgen Receptor Modulator. SARMS are an unauthorised 'novel food' and therefore regulated by the Food Standards Agency.

The MHRA holds the following seizure data in respect of clomifene:

Product Name	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Clomifene	1000	12000	0	150	21216	20250

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.

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