



24 August 2023

Dear [REDACTED],

Freedom of Information request: FOI2023/00603

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 9 August in which you requested the following:

Your request:

I recently come across a report about research into developing vaccines for future diseases; the report mentioned research being conducted at the High-security Porton Down Laboratory.

Having acquired some knowledge about vaccine development in recent years, I am very interested in how scientists can develop vaccines for diseases not yet in existence or might never exist in nature. Thus, could you please provide information regarding the methodology deployed in such research.

Our response

I can confirm that UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) do not hold any information relevant to your request. Please see the information below.

Information on methodologies used to develop vaccines is not held by UKRI.

As part of our duty to advise and assist under the FOIA, you may find the following publicly available information of interest:

Some relevant information is likely to be available via standard research outputs, which can be accessed via [EuropePMC](https://europepmc.org/)¹ and [Google Scholar](https://scholar.google.com/)².

Whilst we hold no information on methodologies ourselves, UKRI has however co-funded the DHSC UK [Vaccine Network](https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/uk-vaccines-network)³ (UKVN), which developed a human vaccine development roadmap that describes all of the necessary steps and framework for the development and licensing of new human vaccines (this now includes a veterinary vaccines one) and is a resource used widely by the vaccine research community in the UK and elsewhere. Further information can be found [here](https://www.vaccinedevelopment.org.uk/index.html)⁴.

In addition there are two publications referring to the [human](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7173310/)⁵ and [veterinary vaccine](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7200350/)⁶ roadmaps that include additional detail on how they can be used.

¹ <https://europepmc.org/>

² <https://scholar.google.com/>

³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/uk-vaccines-network>

⁴ <https://www.vaccinedevelopment.org.uk/index.html>

⁵ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7173310/>

⁶ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7200350/>

You may also find this [blog](#)⁷ from the UK Health Security Agency and this [Video](#)⁸ on the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry (ABPI) website helpful, as well as a [report](#)⁹ on the UK Vaccine Network which discusses the current landscape for vaccine development in the context of the need to prepare for potential future epidemics.

If you have any queries regarding our response or you are unhappy with the outcome of your request and wish to seek an internal review of the decision, please contact us within the next 40 working days:

Head of Information Governance

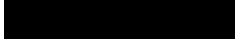
Email: foi@ukri.org

Please quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are still not content with the outcome of the internal review, you may apply to refer the matter to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the review procedure provided by UKRI. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: www.ico.org.uk.

If you wish to raise a complaint regarding the service you have received or the conduct of any UKRI staff in relation to your request, please see UKRI's complaints policy: <https://www.ukri.org/about-us/policies-and-standards/complaints-policy/>

Yours sincerely,


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⁷ <https://ukhsa.blog.gov.uk/2023/08/07/the-science-behind-life-saving-vaccines/>

⁸ <https://www.abpi.org.uk/value-and-access/vaccines/how-vaccines-are-researched-and-developed/>

⁹ https://researchonline.lshtm.ac.uk/id/eprint/4665413/7/Noad_etal_2021_Scoping-report-for-the-uk.pdf