



[REDACTED]

8 June 2021

Dear [REDACTED],

Freedom of Information request: FOI2021/00242

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 10 May in which you requested the following:

Your request:

I have been advised that the UK COVID-19 Therapeutics Advisory Panel (UK-CTAP) has considered ivermectin as a possible treatment for covid-19 and decided not to prioritise it for inclusion in any of the covid-19 trials. The Department of Health and Social Care has advised that UKRI are the appropriate organisation to request minutes of the UK-CTAP meetings from. Please can you provide any information about (i) when the evidence about ivermectin was assessed, (ii) what evidence was included in the review, and (iii) what determinations were made about that evidence or the potential value of ivermectin as a treatment for covid-19? If possible, please also provide the minutes of any UK-CTAP meetings in which ivermectin was discussed.

Our response

I can confirm UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) hold some of the information relevant to your request. Please find the information attached in document “FOI2021/00242 Ivermectin FOI Response” in relation to parts 1, 2 and 3 of your request.

The evidence about ivermectin was assessed on twelve occasions identified by the ‘events’ at which it was reviewed in the attached document. Each ‘event’ includes the actions taken, the sources of information or evidence reviewed, the comments made and the outcome or determination of the assessment.

With regard to part 4 of your request for copies of UK-CTAP meeting minutes in which ivermectin was discussed, please note that only the decisions from these meetings are recorded, as opposed to minutes being taken. As [publicly stated](#)¹, UKRI’s intention is to make the information requested available to the general public, however the timetable for publication requires internal consideration of the information prior to its release. Taking this into account, we have determined that this information is exempt from disclosure under Section 22(1) of the FOIA as it is intended for future publication. Section 22 is a qualified exemption meaning that it is subject to the public interest test.

Public interest in favour of disclosure

- UKRI understand that transparency and openness with regard to the functions of the UK-CTAP is in the public interest.
- There is also a public interest in understanding the work of public authorities in addressing the COVID-19 pandemic.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-treatments-making-a-proposal-for-clinical-trials/guidance-making-a-proposal-for-covid-19-therapeutics-clinical-trials>

Public interest in favour of withholding the information

- UKRI understand that being transparent in regard to the work of CTAP is in the public interest. However, the information requested is still incomplete and we are of the view that releasing the information as it currently stands would be inaccurate, incomplete and misleading and thus not in the public interest.
- We consider that premature release would give a misleading impression of the outcomes of CTAP's recommendations and would put undue pressure on UKRI to publish outside of its scheduled timeframes. This would not be in the public interest.
- A full record of decisions made by CTAP will be published in accordance with our transparency duties once this information has been verified. It is in the public interest to enable the proper analysis and scrutiny of the information prior to publication in order to ensure there is scientific accuracy and that the greatest benefit is achieved from the public release of information on CTAP's decisions.
- UKRI needs to manage the availability of the information by planning and controlling its publication. This will enable UKRI to review all the information prior to release as it is likely other exemptions would apply to some of the sensitive information which will ensure release does not prejudice stakeholders.

We have therefore determined that the balance of the public interest lies in withholding this information, as the public interest does not justify release of this information outside of the scheduled timeframes. We anticipate that the information will be published in summer 2021.

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:

Head of Information Governance

Email: foi@ukri.org or infogovernance@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: <http://www.ico.gov.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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