



[REDACTED]

24 September 2021

Dear [REDACTED],

**Freedom of Information request: FOI2021/00394**

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 30 August in which you requested the following:

**Your request:**

*I am [part of a] study addressing the adverse effects of folic acid and zinc in this study (RCT of folic acid 5000 mg and Zinc 30 mg daily to assess effects on sperm and pregnancy rates). JAMA. 2020 Jan 7;323(1):35-48. doi: 10.1001/jama.2019.18714).*

*We wondered if the adverse effect data on the study "Prevention of neural tube defects: Results of the Medical Research Council July 20, 1991" are available for review and reference in our manuscript.*

**Our response:**

I can confirm UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) hold some information relevant to your request. Please see the information below and attached.

The original study data for "[Prevention of neural tube defects: Results of the Medical Research Council Vitamin Study](#)"<sup>1</sup> is not held by MRC. This would likely have been held by the Research Organisation who conducted the study.

However, MRC did run the Data Monitoring Committee for this study and some hold related files. The information identified as being in scope of 'adverse effect data' has been extracted and can be found in the attached file "MRC Vitamin Study".

We do note that the capsule type designation in this data is labelled as I, II, III and IV, but groups in the [final published paper](#)<sup>2</sup> are listed as A, B, C and D. Unfortunately, there is nothing in any of the files held by MRC to note definitively what capsule type corresponds to which group in the final report.

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](mailto:foi@ukri.org) or [infogovernance@ukri.org](mailto: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


<sup>1</sup> [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PII0140-6736\(91\)90133-A/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PII0140-6736(91)90133-A/fulltext)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.sjsu.edu/faculty/gerstman/hs261/Lancet1991-338-8760-131-137.htm>

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,

  
Information Governance  
Information Rights Team  
UK Research and Innovation  
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