



26 June 2024

Dear [REDACTED],

Freedom of Information request: FOI2024/00489

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 3 June in which you requested the following:

Your request:

A list of all interventional clinical trials as defined by the World Health Organisation that were funded by the MRC and whose funding period ended between January 2014 and December 2023, including the following data for each such trial:

- (1) The MRC funding number for that trial*
- (2) The start and end dates of MRC funding for that trial (DD/MM/YYYY)*
- (3) The name of the company or institution that acted as the legal sponsor of the trial*
- (4) The trial registry number(s) of the trial (e.g. EudraCT, CTIS, NCT, ISRCTN, etc)*
- (5) The amount of funding provided by MRC coupled with a note on whether that sum was exclusively earmarked for the clinical trial, or for a broader project that included the clinical trial*
- (6) A hyperlink to the final published outcomes of the clinical trial, for example on a trial registry or in a peer reviewed journal*

Please provide this information in Excel- or CSV-Format (not as PDF) in electronic form.

NOTE: *The relevant World Health Organisation (WHO) definition is as follows:*

"[A] clinical trial is any research study that prospectively assigns human participants or groups of humans to one or more health-related interventions to evaluate the effects on health outcomes. Clinical trials may also be referred to as interventional trials. Interventions include but are not restricted to drugs, cells and other biological products, surgical procedures, radiologic procedures, devices, behavioural treatments, process-of-care changes, preventive care, etc. This definition includes Phase I to Phase IV trials."

<https://www.who.int/news-room/questions-and-answers/item/clinical-trials>

If the categorisation of interventional medical studies underlying the data provided in response to this request differs from the WHO definition, for example because you internally use a different definition of 'interventional clinical trial', please additionally:

- (7) Provide a copy of the definition that you used to identify relevant studies*

Our response:

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

Under Section 21 of the FOIA, Information already reasonably accessible, a list of all interventional clinical trials that have been funded by MRC, where funding began between February 2011 and January 2019, is already available in the public domain:

- [MRC clinical trials review 2020: dataset](#)¹

Please note, two trials which started after January 2019 are also included in this report, but this is not an exhaustive list of all relevant trials that began after this date.

The specific data you have requested for the (1) MRC funding number, (2) start and end dates of MRC funding, (4) trial registry number(s), (5) amount of funding provided by MRC and (6) final published outcomes of clinical trials is also already available in the public domain.

Section 21 is an absolute exemption which means that there is no requirement to conduct a public interest test.

As you will note from the dataset, an “award end date” (column N) is included, which can be used to filter out trials where the funding period does not end between the dates which are of interest to you.

Details of trials where funding began after January 2019 and have a funding period that ended before December 2023 are 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.

UKRI understand that being transparent in regard to the funding of interventional clinical trials is in the public interest. However, this data 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 also consider that premature release would put undue pressure on UKRI to publish outside of our scheduled timeframes which would lead to a disproportionate burden on the organisation. This would not be in the public interest.

We have therefore determined that the outcome of this test is that the public interest is insufficient to justify immediate disclosure. This information is likely to be available by September 2024 from the [MRC data reports and collections](#)² page.

With regard to the data you have requested for each trial, the (1) MRC Grant Reference (column A), (2) award start and end dates (columns M and N) and (4) trial registry numbers (columns F-J), where held, are included in the published dataset.

The MRC Grant Reference can be cross referenced with [UKRI's Gateway to Research](#)³ (GtR) to identify the (5) amount of funding provided by MRC. Information on whether this sum was exclusively earmarked for the clinical trial, or for a broader project that included the clinical trial, is not held.

In addition, information is not held on the (3) name of the company or institution that acted as the legal sponsor of the trial. However, this may be recorded on the relevant trial registry for each trial and can be identified using the trial registry number(s) provided.

When made available by the researchers, details of the (6) final published outcomes of the clinical trial will be accessible via the relevant trial registry, or in some instances on GtR (Publications and Outcomes tabs). As per the [MRC policy on registration and publication of clinical trials and public health intervention studies](#)⁴, it is required that results from MRC-funded studies are published in a timely manner and that information on where the results can be found are added to the trial registry entries.

Please note, when using the MRC Grant Reference on GtR, if a grant reference number returns no results, please add a “/1” to the end of the reference and tick the “Project Reference” search field. GtR requires an exact match when searching by project reference to return a result.

¹ <https://www.ukri.org/publications/mrc-clinical-trials-review-2020-dataset/>

² <https://www.ukri.org/who-we-are/mrc/our-policies-and-standards/data-report-collections/review-of-clinical-trials/#contents-list>

³ <https://gtr.ukri.org/>

⁴ <https://www.ukri.org/publications/open-research-data-from-clinical-trials-and-public-health-intervention-studies/mrc-policy-for-registration-and-publication-of-clinical-trials-and-public-health-intervention-studies-policy/>

In relation to point (7), we can confirm that MRC use the World Health Organisation definition of a clinical trial to identify relevant studies.

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 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](#)⁵.

Yours sincerely,


Information Governance
Information Rights Team
UK Research and Innovation
foi@ukri.org | dataprotection@ukri.org

⁵ <https://www.ukri.org/who-we-are/contact-us/make-a-complaint/#skipnav-target>