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Public Health Division

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Mr McGillivray
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Our ref: FoI/09/01496
30 October 2009

Dear Mr McGillivray

Thank you for your email request of 29 October for information under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA) about the uptake rates of the influenza A (H1N1) vaccines. We have now completed our search for the information you requested and I have been asked to provide a response to the questions you have raised.

The influenza A (H1N1) vaccination programme was launched on 21 October and the programme is proceeding with a phased roll out from this date, with all GP practices in Scotland receiving initial supplies of the vaccine by 6 November. At this early stage we do not yet have information on the number of people who have been invited for vaccination, the uptake rate or the amount of each vaccine brand that has been administered. This information will only become available as the programme progresses in the coming weeks and months.

Adverse side effects to the H1N1 vaccines will be reported through the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), who have processes in place for monitoring H1N1 vaccines and antivirals. A weekly up to date summary of the safety experience, including reports of suspected side effects will be available shortly on the MHRA website at www.mhra.gov.uk/swineflu.

If you are unhappy with this response to your request, you may ask us to carry out an internal review, by writing to Dr Kevin Woods, Director General - Health, Floor 1E.07 - St Andrews House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG. Your request should explain why you wish a review to be carried out, and should be made within 40 working days of receipt of this letter, and we will reply within 20 working days of receipt. If you are not satisfied with the result of the review, you then have the right to make a formal complaint to the Scottish Information Commissioner.

Yours sincerely



Rebekah Watson
H1N1 Vaccination Programme