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From Healthcare Policy Group

Department of Health
An Roinn Sláinte
Männystrie O Poustie
www.health-ni.gov.uk

R Doherty
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Our Ref: FOI – DOH-2020-0229
Date: 6th January 2021

Dear R Doherty

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

I am writing to confirm that the Department of Health, has now completed its search for the information which you requested on 15 December 2020.

You asked the following:

This request is made under the above Act and will be regarded by any reasonable person to be pertinent to the public interest. All questions relate to the vaccine currently being administered to the populace with the stated aim to curb, control, curtail or prevent COVID-19 and/or SARS-CoV-2 and much publicised in the media.

You are asked to provide the following information without delay, prevarication or obfuscation:

1. **Confirmation of whether or not the above vaccine or any others considered for usage contains MRC-5 within it/them.**

2. **Confirmation of whether or not the above vaccine or any others considered for usage contains aborted fetal cells and/or any other DNA within it/them.**

3. **Confirmation including dates of meetings, those present etc., wherein the possibility of any lactrogenic effect of the above vaccine(s) were considered (i.e. adverse reactions caused by multiple compounds interacting).**

4. **As at 3. (above), citation of any scientific and/or medical tests, papers or research considered as part of the above meetings including authorship,**

date etc so that these may be accessed and given due consideration by the public before giving otherwise blind trust-based consent to vaccine administration with regard to themselves and their children.

5. **Confirmation that an Equality Impact Assessment was carried out with regard to the inability of Ethical Vegans, many Christians and those of other faiths being unable to take a vaccine for moral/spiritual reasons where such contains MRC-5, aborted fetal cells and/or any DNA within them. Provide relevant dates, participants, outcomes etc of meetings relating to any such Impact Assessment so that these may be accessed and given due consideration by the public before giving otherwise blind trust-based consent to vaccine administration with regard to themselves and their children.**

6. **Confirmation of the date, meeting etc when the decision was taken, if any has been taken, that the above vaccine(s) posed a risk to those with severe allergies and whether this came AFTER the date when the Department had considered enough nominally scientific/medical evidence to procure mass doses of the vaccine and publicly acclaim its general suitability.**

This information is as follows:

The only two Covid-19 vaccine authorised for use in the UK are the Pfizer/BioNtech Vaccine and the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine. The following answers will therefore be in relation to both of these vaccines.

1. **Confirmation of whether or not the above vaccine or any others considered for usage contains MRC-5 within it/them.**

   A full list of ingredients for the qualitative and quantitative composition of the vaccine can be found at point 2 in the Information for Healthcare Professionals on Pfizer/BioNtech Vaccine.
   https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/940565/Information_for_Healthcare_Professionals_on_Pfizer_BioNTech_COVID-19_vaccine.pdf

   A full list of ingredients for the qualitative and quantitative composition of the vaccine can be found at point 2 in the Information for Healthcare Professionals of COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca.
   https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/regulatory-approval-of-covid-19-vaccine-astrazeneca/information-for-healthcare-professionals-on-covid-19-vaccine-astrazeneca

2. **Confirmation of whether or not the above vaccine or any others considered for usage contains aborted fetal cells and/or any other DNA within it/them.**

   Please see response to point 1.

3. **Confirmation including dates of meetings, those present etc., wherein the possibility of any lactrogenic effect of the above vaccine(s) were considered (i.e. adverse reactions caused by multiple compounds interacting).**

   This information is not held by the Department of Health. You may find this information on the following websites:

   Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation:
   https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/joint-committee-on-vaccination-and-immunisation

   MHRA guidance on coronavirus (COVID-19):
   https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/mhra-guidance-on-coronavirus-covid-19

   Pfizer:
   https://www.pfizer.com/news/press-release/press-release-detail/pfizer-and-biontech-announce-publication-results-landmark

   AstraZeneca/Oxford:
   https://www.astrazeneca.com/media-centre/press-releases/2020/azd1222-oxford-phase-iii-trials-interim-analysis-results-published-in-the-lancet.html

4. **As at 3. (above), citation of any scientific and/or medical tests, papers or research considered as part of the above meetings including authorship, date etc so that these may be accessed and given due consideration by the public before giving otherwise blind trust-based consent to vaccine administration with regard to themselves and their children.**

   This information is not held by the Department of Health. You may find it on the above websites.

5. **Confirmation that an Equality Impact Assessment was carried out with regard to the inability of Ethical Vegans, many Christians and those of other faiths being unable to take a vaccine for moral/spiritual reasons where such contains MRC-5, aborted fetal cells and/or any DNA within them. Provide relevant dates, participants, outcomes etc of meetings relating to any such Impact Assessment so that these may be accessed and given due consideration by the public before giving otherwise blind trust-based consent to vaccine administration with regard to themselves and their children.**

   No EIA has been completed. Receipt of a COVID-19 vaccine is entirely voluntary.

6. **Confirmation of the date, meeting etc when the decision was taken, if any has been taken, that the above vaccine(s) posed a risk to those with severe allergies and whether this came AFTER the date when the Department had considered enough nominally scientific/medical evidence to procure mass doses of the vaccine and publicly acclaim its general suitability.**

   This information is not held by the Department of Health. You may find it on the above websites.

If you feel that the information we have provided does not fully meet your request, you have the right to request a formal review by the Department within two calendar months of the date of this letter. If you wish to do so, please write to Mr Brendan O'Neill (foi@health-ni.gov.uk), Annexe 3, Castle Buildings, Stormont, Belfast BT4 3SQ.

If after such an internal review you are still unhappy with the response, you have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioner at Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, CHESHIRE SK9 5AF, who will undertake an independent review.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

Alastair Campbell
Healthcare Policy Group