



By email

request-616060-cca1e73e@whatdotheyknow.com

Our ref: 28/10/ab/750

22 November 2019

Dear Mr Roberts

Re: Anthrax vaccines for use on British troops specifically for the Gulf War 1999/1991

Thank you for your email dated 28 October 2019. Your email has been handled as a request for information under the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act. In accordance with Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act), I can confirm that Public Health England (PHE) does not hold the information you have specified.

Your request:

What has already been clarified is that the U.S formula was used to develop Anthrax vaccines for use on British troops specifically for the Gulf War 1999/1991 .My simple question is as follows...Did the U.S also supply the anthrax bacteria or any other ingredient within that vaccine?

As set out in the Ministry of Defence's internal review response to you of 7 August this year, which is publicly available on whatdotheyknow.com, the supplier of vaccines purchased at the time specified in your request to them (i.e. MoD) was the Centre for Applied Microbiology Research (CAMR), part of the then Public Health Laboratory Service (PHLS). On the dissolution of CAMR and PHLS, the anthrax vaccine manufacturing capability was transferred to the Health Protection Agency (2003-2013), then Public Health England as the HPA's successor body (2013-2015), and lastly and more recently to Porton Biopharma Limited (PBL), an independent company established in April 2015 that it is wholly owned by the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care. As such, PHE does not hold the information you have requested.

Section 16(1) of the Act places a duty on a public authority to provide advice and assistance, where possible, to those making or intending to make a request for information. Whilst PHE no longer holds the information you have requested, we are able to advise that the vaccine to which you refer was originally and entirely developed in the UK by Belton and Strange in the 1950s, as set out in the open scientific literature. We also understand that PBL has responded directly to your separate but similar request to them.

If you have any queries regarding the information that has been supplied to you, please refer your query in writing in the first instance. If you remain dissatisfied and would like to request an internal review, then please contact us at the address above or by emailing foi@phe.gov.uk.

Please note that you have the right to an independent review by the Information Commissioner's Office if a complaint cannot be resolved through the PHE complaints procedure. The Information Commissioner's Office can be contacted by writing to Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely,

FOI Team