

Our ref: 12/12/24/gs/460

Health Protection Agency

request-130107-2871a09d@whatdotheyknow.com

30 January 2013

Public Information Access
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www.hpa.org.uk
Email: foi@hpa.org.uk

Dear Mr Faulknor

Re: Request for detailed Enhanced TB surveillance content held within 19 specified data fields

Thank you for your email dated 24 December 2012 regarding the Enhanced TB surveillance data fields. I have handled your request under the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000.

I have identified your questions and addressed them.

- 1. "I request the below-listed data fields for each case listed on the Enhanced Tuberculosis Surveillance database.**

The HPA makes data available on its website, see links.

<http://www.hpa.org.uk/Topics/InfectiousDiseases/InfectionsAZ/Tuberculosis/TBUKSuveillanceData/>

<http://www.hpa.org.uk/web/HPAweb&Page&HPAwebAutoListName/Page/1294739536811>

http://www.hpa.org.uk/webw/HPAweb&HPAwebStandard/HPAweb_C/1317134916916

- 2. (1) NOT REQUIRED; (2) NOT REQUIRED; (3) NOT REQUIRED; (4) Date of case report; (5) Age and sex of the case; (6) Residence of the case; (7) NOT REQUIRED; (8) Ethnic group of the case; (9) Place of birth (UK- or non-UK-born) of the case; (10) Year case entered the UK if non-UK-born; (11) Date of onset of symptoms, start of treatment, diagnosis; (12) Site of disease; (13) Sputum-smear results; (14) Confirmation of the diagnosis (e.g. by microscopy, histology, PCR, culture); (15) Species of Mycobacterium tuberculosis complex; (16) Drug resistance profile; (17) Previous diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis; (18) BCG vaccination and year received; (19) NOT REQUIRED; (20) Details on the TB Treatment; (21) Directly observed treatment in-patient stay in hospital; (22) Culture conversion; (23) Treatment outcome; (24) If applicable – of which molecular cluster is this patient part."**

The Health Protection Agency (HPA) is not required to create a list of all possible combinations of data fields that could give rise to deductive disclosure of individuals.

In accordance with the FOI Act, we are not obliged to create new information to satisfy a request. Therefore, your question is not deemed to be a valid FOI request.

The HPA makes data available on its website, see links.

<http://www.hpa.org.uk/Topics/InfectiousDiseases/InfectionsAZ/Tuberculosis/TBUKSurveillanceData/>

<http://www.hpa.org.uk/web/HPAweb&Page&HPAwebAutoListName/Page/1294739536811>

http://www.hpa.org.uk/webw/HPAweb&HPAwebStandard/HPAweb_C/1317134916916

The HPA is a public body with limited resources and staffing. We have spent considerable time and resources on our correspondence. This correspondence has required extensive co-ordination between relevant individuals to ensure that you are provided with accurate and helpful responses.

We now consider that we have done all we can to provide you with up to date information in relation to the matters you have raised. We do not believe there is anything further we can usefully add to what we have said to date, and our position in relation to these matters currently remains the same as it has been set out in our previous letters to you. We therefore do not propose to continue corresponding with you on these matters unless our position changes or new information becomes available.

The HPA will continue to meet its legal obligations under the Freedom of Information Act and Data Protection Act should you wish to make further statutory access requests (which should be addressed to foi@hpa.org.uk).

If you have any queries regarding the information that has been supplied to you, please refer them in the first instance to myself. If you are dissatisfied with this response and would like a copy of the HPA complaints procedure then please contact Mr George Stafford, Complaints Manager at: Health Protection Agency, 151 Buckingham Palace Road, SW1W 9SZ.

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 HPA 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

Freedom of Information Officer