University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust

Freedom of Information Request **Ref: 21-340**

13 July 2021

By Email

Dear Sir/Madam

Thank you for your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Trust's response is as follows:

- We can confirm that we hold some the information you are requesting

Please provide data and evidence to show the vaccine/s offers effective protection for a 5 year old as their first dose?
We rely on Section 21 of the FOIA as this information is reasonably accessible in the public domain on the following link:
https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/why-vaccination-is-safe-and-important/
https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/immunisation-against-infectious-disease-the-green-book
https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/
https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd/dtap-tdap-td/public/index.html
https://vk.ovg.ox.ac.uk/vk/vaccine-safety

JCVI (The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation) regularly review all evidence related to vaccinations and advices UK health departments on immunisation and its schedules. We follow the JCVI and PHE recommendations.
https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/joint-committee-on-vaccination-and-immunisation

The vaccination for older children was also discussed in the letter dated 7th June 2021.

Please provide data and evidence to show the level of protection the vaccine/s can guarantee for [redacted] and if that is enough to make it worth the other risk of death or injury to her?
Under Section 40(1) of the Freedom of Information Act, any information to which a request for information relates is exempt information if it constitutes personal data of which the applicant is the data subject.

We have provided the detail information about the vaccine efficacy/protection rates and the potential adverse effects of different vaccines in our previous correspondence dated 12.03.2021 and 06.04.2021.

Further information can be found:
https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/immunisation-against-infectious-disease-the-green-book
https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/

Please provide data and evidence to show clearly the safety and efficiency of these vaccines when given for the first time to a 5 year old child of [redacted] height and weight?
Under Section 40(1) of the Freedom of Information Act, any information to which a request for information relates is exempt information if it constitutes personal data of which the applicant is the data subject.
The safety and efficacy has been discussed in the letters dated 12.03.2021 and 06.04.2021
Further information is found:
https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/immunisation-against-infectious-disease-the-green-book
https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/

We are not aware of vaccines safety issues in relation to the age, height or weight.
Separate vaccines and their components included in the combined vaccines such as infanrix hexa are recommended for use in older children as discussed in the letter dated 7th June 2021.

Please provide data and evidence to show their expected level of protection and immunity for [redacted] and for how long it will last?
Under Section 40(1) of the Freedom of Information Act, any information to which a request for information relates is exempt information if it constitutes personal data of which the applicant is the data subject.
The information about the level of protection and the vaccine efficacy provided in the clinical letters as mentioned above and also can be found:
https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/immunisation-against-infectious-disease-the-green-book

The duration of immunity following the vaccinations varies depending on the vaccine received. For example, people who receive MMR vaccination are usually considered protected for life against measles and rubella. Diphtheria and tetanus vaccines protect nearly everyone against diphtheria or tetanus for approximately 10 years. Therefore, a booster dose is recommended especially for those travelling to high disease incidence countries or people exposed in the course of their work.

Further information can be found on the vaccine efficacy and the duration of protection:
https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd/dtap-tdap-td/public/index.html

Please provide evidence and data to show the level of protection and immunity for [redacted] provided by the vaccine/s sufficient enough to be worth taking the risk of increased auto immune disease, possible death or life long vaccine injury?
Under Section 40(1) of the Freedom of Information Act, any information to which a request for information relates is exempt information if it constitutes personal data of which the applicant is the data subject.

See the answers above.

Please explain the steps that are usually taken with vaccinating when a child has had a previous adverse reaction?
We rely on Section 21 of the FOIA as this information is reasonably accessible in the public domain on the following link: https://www.england.nhs.uk/south/info-professional/pgd/south-west/downloads/
Also, the information about the management of adverse events following the vaccination is discussed in the previous letters dated 12.-3.2021 and 06.04.2021.

Section 21 of the FOIA provides that we are not obliged to provide the requested information where this is already reasonably accessible.

Please provide information on why [redacted] became lifeless and unresponsive after receiving her previous vaccine?
Under Section 40(1) of the Freedom of Information Act, any information to which a request for information relates is exempt information if it constitutes personal data of which the applicant is the data subject.
We are not aware that [redacted] has ever received any vaccine in the past. We understand that she became unresponsive following the Vitamin K injection soon after birth as stated in the clinic letter dated 07.12.2020. Vitamin K is NOT a vaccine.

Please provide information of the ingredient or component of the vaccine she had a reaction to?
Under Section 40(1) of the Freedom of Information Act, any information to which a request for information relates is exempt information if it constitutes personal data of which the applicant is the data subject.
Not applicable as she had never received any vaccines.

Please provide the recommended vaccines ingredients lists.
We rely on Section 21 of the FOIA as this information is reasonably accessible in the public domain on the following link: https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/

Section 21 of the FOIA provides that we are not obliged to provide the requested information where this is already reasonably accessible.

Do these other vaccines have the same components /ingredients in them?
We rely on Section 21 of the FOIA as this information is reasonably accessible in the public domain on the following link: https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/

Section 21 of the FOIA provides that we are not obliged to provide the requested information where this is already reasonably accessible.

If yes, please provide data and evidence to show it's not expected to give a similar reaction again next time?
Under Section 40(1) of the Freedom of Information Act, any information to which a request for information relates is exempt information if it constitutes personal data of which the applicant is the data subject.
Not applicable, as [redacted] never received any vaccines in the past.

Please explain what precautions are usually put in place for children being vaccinated that have a history of an adverse vaccine reaction previously?
We rely on Section 21 of the FOIA as this information is reasonably accessible in the public domain on the following link: https://www.england.nhs.uk/south/info-professional/pgd/south-west/downloads/
The information also provided in the previous correspondence.

Section 21 of the FOIA provides that we are not obliged to provide the requested information where this is already reasonably accessible

Please explain if children that have had a previous adverse vaccine reaction are at a higher risk of another adverse reaction? If so by how much?
It depends on the adverse reaction following previous vaccination.
Pain, swelling or redness at the injection site are common and may occur more following subsequent doses. However, these adverse reactions usually disappear and are of no consequence.

There are only very few individuals who cannot receive subsequent immunisations. For example, the vaccines should not be given to those who have had: a confirmed anaphylactic reaction to a previous dose or to any of the components of the previous vaccine given.
Further detailed information about indications and contraindications of vaccination can be found:
https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/immunisation-against-infectious-disease-the-green-book

Please provide the full information of the time scales each of the vaccines take to be processed by the body
Immunity to most vaccines tends to develop 2-4 weeks after the vaccination.

Please provide safety data information to demonstrate if it's safer to only have 1 vaccine given and see how the patient reacts or whether giving more than one at a time for the first time is safer?
Given the previous studies and ongoing monitoring (MHRA) about the safety of the vaccines included in the UK immunisations schedule, the PHE recommend giving combined vaccines.

References provided at the end of each vaccination section
https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/immunisation-against-infectious-disease-the-green-book

Please provide data and evidence to show [redacted] medical and genetic history has been assessed against the side effects of adjuvants in the vaccines to look at the level of risk to [redacted] as an individual patient of an adverse reaction or the likelihood of an auto immune illness in the future.
Under Section 40(1) of the Freedom of Information Act, any information to which a request for information relates is exempt information if it constitutes personal data of which the applicant is the data subject.
Detailed information about indications and contraindications for each vaccine is provided below. This includes all individuals with or without underlying illnesses, including autoimmune and genetic conditions. References included at the end of each section.
https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/immunisation-against-infectious-disease-the-green-book

Please provide evidence and data to show how safe the vaccine is for a child with hive like allergies?
Detailed information about indications and contraindications for each vaccine is provided below. This includes all individuals with or without underlying illnesses, including autoimmune and genetic conditions. References included at the end of each section.
https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/immunisation-against-infectious-disease-the-green-book

How safe is the vaccine for a child with frequent non blanching post viral rashes?
The non-blanching rash is common in children and usually caused by viruses such as enterovirus.
It is safe to vaccinate the children with the previous history of non-blanching post viral rashes.

Why does [redacted] have non blanching post viral rashes?
Under Section 40(1) of the Freedom of Information Act, any information to which a request for information relates is exempt information if it constitutes personal data of which the applicant is the data subject.
The non-blanching rashes are common in children and they are often caused by viruses such as enterovirus.

Please provide evidence and data to show [redacted] isn't allergic to any of the vaccine components?
Under Section 40(1) of the Freedom of Information Act, any information to which a request for information relates is exempt information if it constitutes personal data of which the applicant is the data subject.
We understand that [redacted] has never received any vaccinations in the past. Routine testing for allergies to vaccine components is not recommended in the absence of any history of severe or anaphylactic reaction to previous vaccination.

If you cannot, then what kind of reaction is likely if they are allergic to a vaccine component? Please provide data and evidence.
We rely on Section 21 of the FOIA as this information is reasonably accessible in the public domain on the following link: https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/

How can you remove the component a child may react to once the vaccine is given? Please provide evidence of protocols involved?
We do not hold this information.

If you cannot, how long does the component or ingredient cause harm for once in the child's body? Please provide data and evidence.
We do not hold this information.

What should we do in the event of a severe adverse Vaccine reaction, what signs of one do we need to be aware of?
We rely on Section 21 of the FOIA as this information is reasonably accessible in the public domain on the following link: https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/
Also, the information provided in the clinic letters dated 12.03.2021 and 06.04.2021

Section 21 of the FOIA provides that we are not obliged to provide the requested information where this is already reasonably accessible

How dangerous is the disease that the vaccine is for to a 5 year old?
How likely is the disease to kill or injure them?
Please provide data and evidence.
The information about the vaccine preventable diseases', including their complications, is provided in the letters dated 12.-3.2021 and 06.04.2021

More information can be found:
https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/immunisation-against-infectious-disease-the-green-book

How dangerous is the vaccine for the disease for a 5 year old?
How likely is it to kill or injure them?
Please provide data and evidence.

See above

What data is there available to show the recommended schedule is safe and also effective for [redacted] individual genetic and medical history and her age weight height?
Please provide data and evidence.
Under Section 40(1) of the Freedom of Information Act, any information to which a request for information relates is exempt information if it constitutes personal data of which the applicant is the data subject.
The information already provided above.
JCVI (The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation) regularly review all evidence related to vaccinations and advices UK health departments on immunisation and its schedules.
https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/joint-committee-on-vaccination-and-immunisation

What are the life changing reactions and side effects that vaccines can cause?
We rely on Section 21 of the FOIA as this information is reasonably accessible in the public domain on the following links: https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/why-vaccination-is-safe-and-important/
https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/immunisation-against-infectious-disease-the-green-book

Can the vaccine sometimes cause death to a child?
We rely on Section 21 of the FOIA as this information is reasonably accessible in the public domain on the following links: https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/why-vaccination-is-safe-and-important/
https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/immunisation-against-infectious-disease-the-green-book

If that is a yes, then why when we may not even catch the disease should we take that risk? Please give evidence and data for your reasons.
This is an extremely rare event.
For example, we have been running a specialist immunisation clinic for more than 10 years at the Bristol Children's Hospital where we offer a wide range of vaccines to the children at different ages and so far, we have not witnessed any severe or life-threatening adverse events associated with the vaccinations. We have discussed the vaccination related adverse events in the letters dated 12.03.2021 and 06.04.2021.

Further information of adverse events following the vaccinations can be found:
https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/why-vaccination-is-safe-and-important/
https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/immunisation-against-infectious-disease-the-green-book

Can you show us data to show how effective the vaccine is for a 5 year old as a primary dose and how much protection does it guarantee and for how long? Please provide data and evidence.
We rely on Section 21 of the FOIA as this information is reasonably accessible in the public domain on the following link: https://www.england.nhs.uk/south/info-professional/pgd/south-west/downloads/

Section 21 of the FOIA provides that we are not obliged to provide the requested information where this is already reasonably accessible.

Is the protection provided high enough to negate the risks of giving the vaccine? How can you prove this?
Please provide data and evidence.
We rely on Section 21 of the FOIA as this information is reasonably accessible in the public domain on the following link: https://www.england.nhs.uk/south/info-professional/pgd/south-west/downloads/
Also, see the information on the duration of vaccination provided above.

Section 21 of the FOIA provides that we are not obliged to provide the requested information where this is already reasonably accessible.

How long do the vaccines take to be processed by the body and how long is an adverse reaction possible?
Please provide data and evidence.
We rely on Section 21 of the FOIA as this information is reasonably accessible in the public domain on the following link: https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/

Section 21 of the FOIA provides that we are not obliged to provide the requested information where this is already reasonably accessible.

Has the clinician, Dr giving the vaccine and the person giving consent read the patient information leaflet and signed the disclaimer forms?
We do not hold this information. The Trust is not giving consent for or administering the vaccines.

Are the doctor and the person giving consent aware that the safety and efficiency data for the vaccines isn't up to date?
We do not hold this information. The Trust is not giving consent for or administering the vaccines.

Are the clinician, doctor and the person consenting aware of the risks of aluminium as an adjuvant has been proven to cause neurological and physical harm to humans and animals in medical studies? Please provide evidence to dispute this if you believe it to not be true.

We do not hold this information. The Trust is not giving consent for or administering the vaccines.

Are the doctor and the person giving consent aware that genetic history of auto immune illness increases the risks of adverse reactions?
If so how by how much?
We do not hold this information.

The Trust is not giving consent for or administering the vaccines.

Can you guarantee it will not cause harm?
If not how risky is it?
Please provide data and evidence.
We cannot answer this as it doesn't fall into the Freedom of Information remit.

Like everything else in life, vaccines are not completely risk-free. However in the case of all the vaccines used in the current UK routine schedule, the overwhelming evidence is that vaccinating is safer than not vaccinating https://vk.ovg.ox.ac.uk/vk/vaccine-safety

It is considered that almost all individuals can be safely vaccinated with all vaccines. In very few individuals, vaccination is contraindicated or should be deferred, for example, if there is a history of a confirmed anaphylactic reaction to a previous dose or a component of the vaccine, immunodeficiency, etc.
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/655225/Greenbook_chapter_6.pdf

According to WHO, vaccination is safe and side effects from a vaccine are usually minor and temporary, such as a sore arm or mild fever. More serious side effects are possible, but extremely rare
https://www.who.int/news-room/q-a-detail/vaccines-and-immunization-what-is-vaccination?adgroupsurvey={adgroupsurvey}&gclid=EAIaIQobChMI49nttsXq7wIVh9CyCh1ZlAgxEAAYASADEgLrx_D_BwE

Will you the clinician recommending these take legal responsibility for any ill effects caused by the vaccines?
We cannot answer this as it doesn't fall into the Freedom of Information remit.

Is it essential?
Please provide data and evidence.
We cannot answer this as it doesn't fall into the Freedom of Information remit.

How likely is it that the child may die without the vaccine?
Please provide data and evidence.

We rely on Section 21 of the FOIA as this information is reasonably accessible in the public domain on the following link: https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/why-vaccination-is-safe-and-important/

The detail information about the vaccination related adverse events provided above.

How likely is it the child may die with the vaccine?
Please provide data and evidence.
We rely on Section 21 of the FOIA as this information is reasonably accessible in the public domain on the following link: https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/why-vaccination-is-safe-and-important/

Is this vaccine safe for a child with a genetic history of auto immune diseases, skin sensitivity, hive like allergies and repetitive non blanching post viral rashes? How much does each of these conditions affect the likelihood of an individual's adverse reaction?
Please provide data and evidence.
The detailed information provided above.

What conditions and genetic dispositions make children more susceptible to sever adverse vaccine reactions?
Please provide data and evidence.
The detailed information about severe adverse events related to the vaccination provided above.

What are the ingredients in the vaccine and how do they interact with each other?
Please provide data and evidence.
We rely on Section 21 of the FOIA as this information is reasonably accessible in the public domain on the following link: https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/

Section 21 of the FOIA provides that we are not obliged to provide the requested information where this is already reasonably accessible.

Are any of the ingredients known to be toxic or neuro toxins? If yes what evidence do we have to show they are safe to be given to a child?
Please provide data and evidence.
We rely on Section 21 of the FOIA as this information is reasonably accessible in the public domain on the following link: https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/

Section 21 of the FOIA provides that we are not obliged to provide the requested information where this is already reasonably accessible

Should you have any ongoing clinical concerns please address these with your daughter's GP.

This concludes our response. We trust that you find this helpful, but please do not hesitate to contact us directly if we can be of any further assistance.

If, after that, you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to:

Director of Corporate Governance
University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust
Trust Headquarters
Marlborough Street
Bristol
BS1 3NU

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF

Publication

Please note that this letter and the information included/attached will be published on our website as part of the Trust's Freedom of Information Publication Log. This is because information disclosed in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act is disclosed to the public, not just to the individual making the request. We will remove any personal information (such as your name, email and so on) from any information we make public to protect your personal information.

To view the Freedom of Information Act in full please click here.

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Team
University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust