

Dear *****

Thank you for your email.

We have interpreted 'the results of the trial to be provided alongside the analysis that has been undertaken of the results, which may be in the form of a draft academic paper intended for publication. I request the release in full of all documents which may contain the information requested above' as your request.

To the extent that any of the above data is held by Queen Mary, we believe it is exempt under Section 22a of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Please accept this as a refusal notice. The information was obtained in the course of, or derived from, a programme of research. Releasing this into the public domain at this time would be likely to prejudice the programme of research, the interests of Queen Mary and/or the interests of other authorities which hold relevant information for the following reasons:

- Analysis, checking and auditing of the trial data is not yet complete. Once this has been undertaken, and after submission of the main paper and Clinical Study Report (CSR) (both of which are currently in draft form only) there remain a number of actions to complete before the research outputs will be fit for publication. MIROCALS is an extremely complex study with a vast amount of data, all of which has to be analysed and presented in the final CSR.
- Premature disclosure of the requested information could lead to incomplete, unchecked trial data being in the public domain. This would not be in the best interests of the research participants, the University or any other members of the research consortium. Were the University to release this incomplete data, outside of the terms of the consortium agreement, this would be likely to prejudice our ability to secure research partners and funding in the future.
- Without expert analysis and interpretation, release of raw or draft data would at best be meaningless and at worst prejudicial to the aims of the study.

This exemption is subject to the public interest test. On the one hand we recognise that there are strong public interest considerations in respect of the release of information which may be of particular interest to those seeking treatments for related conditions and generally a public interest in the transparency of the University. However, for the reasons outlined above we believe that the public interest in favour of disclosure is outweighed by the prejudice that would be caused and that, on balance, the public interest lies in withholding the information until the research report is published.

It is expected that the research paper will be ready for publication within the next 6 months. In addition, we understand that there have been and will continue to be opportunities for interested parties (including representatives from the Doddie Weir Foundation) to meet with the researchers leading the study, to ask questions and to be provided with updates on the study.

If you are dissatisfied with this response, you may ask QMUL to conduct a review of this decision. To do this, please contact QMUL in writing (including by fax, letter or email), describe the original request, explain your grounds for dissatisfaction, and include an address for correspondence. You have 40 working days from receipt of this communication to submit a review request. When the review process has been completed, if you are still dissatisfied, you may ask the Information Commissioner to intervene. Please see www.ico.org.uk for details.

Yours sincerely

Queen Mary University of London