From: Nigel Fox

Sent: Tuesday 26 October 2021 12:59

To: Sinead Curran

Cc:

Subject: RE: False COVID-19 alert being circulated

Hi Sinead,

We contacted the HSE about this early last week with a view to flagging it to Twitter. We'll follow up with them again just to see if there is any update. I understand enforcement colleagues were flagging it to Facebook as a related report came into their inbox.

We have received some random queries on it from outside of Ireland. We might draft a short statement which once agreed we can use for queries such as the below and for any media queries. If it continues to gain traction, we could also add something to our vaccines webpage but anxious not to give it added coverage.

Best regards, Nigel

From: Sinead Curran

Sent: Tuesday 26 October 2021 11:43

To: @hpra.ie>; Nigel Fox @hpra.ie>;

Subject: RE: False COVID-19 alert being circulated

Nigel,

Would it be possible to contact a comms rep in HSE?

KR,

From: @hpra.ie>

Sent: Tuesday 26 October 2021 10:23

Subject: False COVID-19 alert being circulated

Dear Nigel and Sinead,

Please see attached three emails received since Sunday in relation to an image of a fake COVID-19 alert, which is apparently circulating on social media. I can revert re-directing to the product information on the EMA website etc. but flagging in case a statement, or any additional action, needs to be considered.

Kind regards,

Health Products Regulatory Authority | An tÚdarás Rialála Táirgí Sláinte Kevin O'Malley House, Earlsfort Centre, Earlsfort Terrace, Dublin 2.

Tel: +353 1 676 4971 Fax: +353 1 676 2517

@hpra.ie

www.hpra.ie



For the latest Covid-19 (coronavirus) health information, advice and guidelines, visit health gov.ie/health-covid-19

A Please consider the environment before printing this email

Sent: Monday 25 October 2021 11:39

To: HPRA PV Medsafety

Subject: Covid 19 vaccine side effect enquiry

Attachments: HPRA.JPG

Importance: High

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good day,

So much false information are floating around social media that I just want to get confirmation if attached pamphlet is correct or false. It has been circulating on facebook

Hope to hear from you soon

South Africa

From: HPRA Customer Service

Sent: Tuesday 26 October 2021 09:43

To: HPRA PV Medsafety

Subject: FW:

Attachments: FB_IMG_1635155998665.jpg

Hi,

Could you please assist with the query below?

Many thanks,

From:

Sent: Monday 25 October 2021 11:29
To: HPRA Customer Service <info@hpra.ie>

Subject:

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi,

I am just enquiring if this poster is legitimate? I seen it on the internet but haven't seen it hanging anywhere. Is the information on this correct?

Kind Regards,

From: HPRA Customer Service

Sent: Tuesday 26 October 2021 09:40

To: HPRA PV Medsafety

Subject: FW: alert

Attachments: Screenshot_20211024-190131_Facebook.jpg

Hi,

Could you please assist with the query below?

Many thanks,

From:

Sent: Sunday 24 October 2021 09:06
To: HPRA Customer Service <info@hpra.ie>

Subject: Re: alert

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

This was posted on Facebook & i want to know if you can confirm the veracity of this post or, is it false? Regards

Sent: Wednesday 27 October 2021 16:53

Nigel Fox

To:

Cc:

Subject: **HSE** statement on posters

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Nigel and

The HSE have sent me this statement that they are issuing in relation to media queries on the posters.

Response: This is not a HSE poster, and the information included on the poster was not authorised or published by the HSE. The poster has used the Government COVID brand, but we can confirm this is false collateral. All our COVID and COVID vaccine information is on HSE.ie, along with a wide range of updated information posters, leaflets and videos.



11 Clanwilliam Square Grand Canal Quay Dublin 2, D02 H996 Ireland

W Kano.ie



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From: Nigel Fox

Sent: Tuesday 26 October 2021 15:00

To: Lorraine Nolan

Subject: Proposed HPRA statement / response to queries

Hi Lorraine,

This <u>post</u> continues to circulate widely and the image is also being lifted and disseminated by others. The HSE has confirmed to that it has been flagged to Twitter but it has not resulted – at least as yet – in its removal.

A lot of the interest seems to be coming from outside of Ireland.

I think therefore it would be useful to have a consistent position on this to use in response to all queries. There are two options:

- (1) A very brief and to-the-point response: "This is not an official HPRA poster. Official Government of Ireland COVID-19 <u>vaccine materials</u> are available from the Health Service Executive (HSE) website. Reliable vaccine safety updates and accurate product information, including details of possible side effects, are available from the <u>HPRA</u> and <u>European Medicines Agency (EMA)</u> websites."
- (2) The second option is to provide almost a mini statement addressing the fabrication of the poster and the fact it contains misleading information. Please see suggested draft below.

Would welcome your thoughts on the best approach and happy to discuss when you are back in the office.

Once we agree on an approach, I can share with Sinead and we go with). I can also share it with the Department's comms team if we make references to the 'Government of Ireland' logo.

I think we should also consider posting the final version to our website at least for the next couple of weeks while the post is still circulating (just adding it to the existing webpage, no alert).

Many thanks, Nigel

Proposed HPRA Statement

The HPRA does not produce COVID-19 vaccination posters. Any COVID-19 vaccination posters circulating – whether in print or via social media – that are portrayed as being from the HPRA are likely to be fabricated and to contain false or misleading information.

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has published helpful advice on <u>dealing with fake health information during the COVID-19 pandemic</u>. Misleading health information is a big problem and it is really important to only use reliable information sources.

Official Government of Ireland <u>COVID-19 vaccine materials</u> are available from the HSE website and will feature the Government of Ireland logo.

The HPRA publishes regular <u>safety updates</u> on our website providing an overview of the national reporting experience for COVID-19 vaccines. The <u>European Medicines Agency (EMA)</u> also publishes ongoing safety updates and provides

access to the latest product information for COVID-19 vaccines including evidence-based information about possible side effects. Further reliable information on Ireland's COVID-19 vaccination programme is available from the Department of Health and HSE websites.

From: Nigel Fox

Sent: Wednesday 27 October 2021 17:04

To: Sinead Curran;
Cc: Lorraine Nolan

Subject: Proposed HPRA statement / response to queries

Dear both,

I've been discussing this <u>post</u> with Lorraine as it continues to circulate widely and the image is also being lifted and disseminated by others. The HSE has confirmed that it has been flagged to Twitter but it has not resulted – at least as yet – in its removal.

We are also aware from enforcement colleagues that a printed version has been posted to a small number of bus shelters in Dublin. The National Transport Authority together with JCDecaux have now removed several of these from shelters on the Tonlegee Road and Kilbarrack Road. Thanks to Káno for the follow-up on that as well.

However, we continue to receive multiple direct to HPRA queries and media queries – especially from international media – as regards its authenticity.

We can also post it – temporarily – to our vaccine safety webpage.

The short statement below addresses the fabrication of the poster and the fact it contains misleading information. Of course some of the side effects listed are genuine but clearly "sudden death" is deliberate misinformation and the subject of all the interest in the poster.

If you could let me know if you have any thoughts on the text proposed. We will share with the HSE and DoH press offices once approved.

Many thanks, Nigel

Proposed HPRA Statement

The HPRA does not produce COVID-19 vaccination posters. Any COVID-19 vaccination posters circulating – whether in print or via social media – that are portrayed as being from the HPRA are likely to be fabricated and to contain false or misleading information.

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has published helpful advice on <u>dealing with fake health information during the COVID-19 pandemic</u>. Misleading health information is a big problem and it is really important to only use reliable information sources.

Official Government of Ireland <u>COVID-19 vaccine materials</u> are available from the HSE website and will feature Government COVID-19 branding and the Government of Ireland logo.

The HPRA publishes regular <u>safety updates</u> on our website providing an overview of the national reporting experience for COVID-19 vaccines. The <u>European Medicines Agency (EMA)</u> also publishes ongoing safety updates and provides access to the latest product information for COVID-19 vaccines including evidence-based information about possible side effects. Further reliable information on Ireland's COVID-19 vaccination programme is available from the <u>Department of Health</u> and <u>HSE</u> websites.

Sent: Thursday 28 October 2021 14:50

To:

Nigel Fox

Cc: Subject: Sinead Curran

RE: HPRA statement / response to queries

Hi Nigel

Thank you for sending this on.

Kind regards

From: Nigel Fox

Sent: Thursday 28 October 2021 12:44

To:

@hpra.ie>

Cc:

hpra.ie>;

Subject: HPRA statement / response to queries

Hi

Further to previous discussions re the poster circulating online, please see below which we developed – with assistance from Sinead – for responding to media queries. It may be of use if responding to direct queries on this matter.

Best regards, Nigel

HPRA Statement

The HPRA does not produce COVID-19 vaccination posters. Any COVID-19 vaccination posters circulating – whether in print or via social media – that are portrayed as being from the HPRA are likely to be fabricated and to contain false or misleading information.

The HPRA recommends that members of the public always refer to a vaccine's approved product information for an evidence-based list of known side effects. Product information for COVID-19 vaccines, including the package leaflet, is available from the HPRA website: Product Information for COVID-19 Vaccines

The HPRA also publishes regular <u>safety updates</u> on our website providing an overview of the national reporting experience for COVID-19 vaccines. The <u>European Medicines Agency (EMA)</u> also publishes monthly safety updates.

Whilst not experienced by everyone, all vaccines have some side effects, the vast majority of which are mild to moderate in nature. Side effects need to be continuously balanced against the established benefits in preventing COVID-19 illness. Those vaccinated are also much less likely to get seriously ill or need to go to hospital in the event they do get COVID-19.

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has published helpful advice on <u>dealing with fake health information during the COVID-19 pandemic</u>. Misleading health information is a big problem and it is really important to only use reliable information sources. Further information on Ireland's COVID-19 vaccination programme is available from the <u>Department of Health</u> and <u>HSE</u> websites.

Sent: Wednesday 27 October 2021 18:43

To: Sinead Curran; Nigel Fox

Cc: Lorraine Nolan

Subject: RE: Proposed HPRA statement / response to queries

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Thanks everyone for this.

We will issue to those waiting and to any new queries we get.

Warmest

From: Sinead Curran @hpra.ie>
Sent: Wednesday 27 October 2021 18:32

To: Nigel Fox @hpra.ie>

Cc: Lorraine Nolan @hpra.ie>

Subject: Re: Proposed HPRA statement / response to queries

That's a good workaround

Thank you

Get Outlook for iOS

From: @kano.ie>

Sent: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 6:30:20 PM

To: Nigel Fox <u>@hpra.ie</u>; Sinead Curran <u>@hpra.ie</u>;

Cc: Lorraine Nolan @hpra.ie>

Subject: RE: Proposed HPRA statement / response to queries

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Thanks Sinead for your inputs.

However, I would recommend highlighting the official Govt materials to international media and I can include the link to this information outside of the statement.

The reason being international media will not understand how our national health system is structured (and in honesty won't care) so it is important to direct them to the official materials so that they can see that this poster is not included and also understand the level of officially produced resources the Irish and its agencies have produced.

Are you happy that we issue below now please - we have a few media chasing us!

Kind regards

Subject: RE: Proposed HPRA statement / response to queries

Hi Sinead,

Thank you for the below.

I have reworded the references to product information somewhat just to make it more focused on members of the public. I don't think the SPC is relevant to these queries which are primarily from consumers or mainstream international media.

See suggested rewording below.

I know has been in meetings so just waiting to see if she has any further comments.

Best regards, Nigel

From: Sinead Curran

Sent: Wednesday 27 October 2021 17:23

Cc: Lorraine Nolan @hpra.ie>

Subject: RE: Proposed HPRA statement / response to queries

Hello Nigel,

Agree with approach and thank you for compiling. U have suggested to structure the statement more so around the product information, as that has been the HPRA position to date (product information is the official trusted source). Therefore, have suggested some wording changes, and to keep the general reference to the vaccine programme links, but to stay silent on the specific HSE materials, which are outside of our control in terms of content. Happy to discuss further.

Sinead

Proposed HPRA Statement

The HPRA does not produce COVID-19 vaccination posters. Any COVID-19 vaccination posters circulating – whether in print or via social media – that are portrayed as being from the HPRA are likely to be fabricated and to contain false or misleading information.

The HPRA recommends that members of the public always refer to a vaccine's approved product information for an evidence-based list of known side effects. Product information for COVID-19 vaccines, including the package leaflet, is available from the HPRA website: Product Information for COVID-19 Vaccines

The HPRA also publishes regular <u>safety updates</u> on our website providing an overview of the national reporting experience for COVID-19 vaccines. The <u>European Medicines Agency (EMA)</u> also publishes monthly safety updates.

Whilst not experienced by everyone, all vaccines have some side effects, the vast majority of which are mild to moderate in nature. Side effects need to be continuously balanced against the established benefits in preventing COVID-19 illness. Those vaccinated are also much less likely to get seriously ill or need to go to hospital in the event they do get COVID-19.

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has published helpful advice on <u>dealing with fake health information during the COVID-19 pandemic</u>. Misleading health information is a big problem and it is really important to only use reliable information sources. Further information on Ireland's COVID-19 vaccination programme is available from the <u>Department of Health</u> and <u>HSE</u> websites.

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Authority Kevin O'Malley House Earlsfort Centre Earlsfort Terrace Dublin 2 Tel + 353 1 676 4971 www.hpra.ie

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From: Sent: To: Cc: Subject:	Friday 29 October 2021 13:34 Nigel Fox RE: Anti Vac Poster
No probs Nigel	
From: Nigel Fox Sent: Friday 29 Octo To: Cc: Subject: RE: Anti Vac	@hpra.ie>; @hpra.ie>;
Many thanks	
	sent to Kano as well – not quite sure why it was sent to them but in fairness to in Kano morning on it and said she would reach out to the Swords Pavilion and ask for it to be removed.
Best regards, Nigel	
From: Sent: Friday 29 Octo To: Nigel Fox Cc: Subject: Anti Vac Po	@hpra.ie> @hpra.ie ;
Hi Nigel, A complaint re an a centre ,Swords Pav	anti-vaccine poster purporting to come from our good selves. This one is in the shopping rilion.
Health Products Reg Earlsfort Terrace, Du Tel: Email: Website: www.hpra.i	

Nigel Fox From: Sent: Wednesday 27 October 2021 19:20 To: Cc: Subject: RE: Bus shelters - Fake posters removed that's really helpful. Many thanks again for the below Nigel From: Sent: Wednesday 27 October 2021 16:43 Nigel Fox @hpra.ie> To: Cc: Subject: RE: Bus shelters - Fake posters removed CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. Marvellous work ! Well done and thank you. From: Sent: Wednesday 27 October 2021 16:40 To: Nigel Fox @hpra.ie> Cc: Subject: Bus shelters - Fake posters removed Hi Nigel, As I mentioned briefly on the phone, just to confirm that the National Transport Authority together with JCDecaux have now removed several of the false vaccine posters which were displayed on shelters on the Tonlegee Road and Kilbarrack Road. They will continue to monitor the situation. Kind regards,

Grand Canal Quay Dublin 2, D02 H996 Ireland W Kano.ie



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Sent: Wednesday 20 October 2021 18:46

To:

Nigel Fox;

Subject:

RE: Associated Press Time Sensitive Inquiry

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Hi Nigel

AP done and HSE are reporting it too

From: Nigel Fox

@hpra.ie>

Sent: Wednesday 20 October 2021 17:37

To:

Subject: RE: Associated Press Time Sensitive Inquiry

https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/covid-19-resources-and-translations/

From:

Sent: Wednesday 20 October 2021 17:22

To: Nigel Fox <a>@hpra.ie>;

Subject: FW: Associated Press Time Sensitive Inquiry

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

This has just come in - were you aware of it?

It is obviously no genuine - as It says 'people of Ireland' under the Govt logo

From

Sent: Wednesday 20 October 2021 17:13

To:

Subject: Associated Press Time Sensitive Inquiry

Good afternoon,

I'm a news verification reporter at The Associated Press in NY. We work to debunk misinformation online.

Social media users are sharing this poster, which says it is from HPRA, to claim that the government is admitting that the COVID-19 vaccines cause sudden death.

https://twitter.com/Spacema80683078/status/1450571945465032712

I was wondering if someone from your office could confirm whether this was an official flyer that was produced by HPRA.

Would that be possible?

It would be great to address this online.

Any information would be helpful.

https://twitter.com/Spacema80683078/status/1450571945465032712

Please let me know.

All the best,

From: Sent: To: Cc: Subject:	Friday 22 October 2021 17:25 Nigel Fox; RE: Poster
All,	
See US article.	
https://apnews.com	/article/fact-checking-314758521580
Kevin O'Malley House D02 XP77	ulatory Authority An tÚdarás Rialála Táirgí Sláinte e, Earlsfort Centre, Earlsfort Terrace, Dublin 2. Ohpra.ie
From: Sent: Friday 22 Octob To: Cc: Subject: RE: Poster	per 2021 17:17 @hpra.ie>; Nigel Fox @hpra.ie>;
Thanks - I doubt if w	e are finished with this issue just yet.
Paul	
	ulatory Authority An tÚdarás Rialála Táirgí Sláinte e, Earlsfort Centre, Earlsfort Terrace, Dublin 2.

D02 XP77

@hpra.ie

Website: www.hpra.ie

Sent: Friday 22 October 2021 16:43
To:

Subject: Poster @hpra.ie>; Nigel Fox @hpra.ie>;

On bus shelter on the kilbarrack road

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Fact-checking

Irish agency says poster listing 'death' as COVID vaccine side effect is fake

By BEATRICE DUPUYOctober 20, 2021 GMT

CLAIM: An official government poster from Ireland's Health Products Regulatory Authority says sudden death is a side effect of the COVID-19 vaccines.

AP'S ASSESSMENT: False. The poster is a fake and was not sent out by the Health Products Regulatory Authority.

THE FACTS: Social media users are sharing a photo of a poster that they claim shows an official Ireland government health notice on the COVID-19 vaccines.

The yellow poster, which says it is from the Health Products Regulatory Authority, lists several supposed side effects from the COVID-19 vaccine, including sudden death.

"This is an official Irish government notice regarding vaccination," one post being shared online with the poster said. "Sudden death is a side effect."

Ireland's Health Products Regulatory Authority confirmed to the AP that the poster was

fabricated. Siobhan Molloy, a spokesperson for the agency, said in an email that the poster was not produced by the country's regulatory authority.

"I can categorically state this is not an HPRA produced poster — or indeed a piece of communication produced by the Health Service Executive (HSE) who on behalf of the Irish Department of Health produce advice information," she said.

The Health Products Regulatory Authority is responsible for regulating medicines and devices that are used on people and animals.

"We use our scientific and clinical expertise to review and monitor health products available in Ireland or exported abroad," the agency says on its site.

While the poster was designed to look official, Molloy said the "'people of Ireland" logo does not exist and is not representative of the authority either.

Death is not listed as a side effect from the vaccine by the Ireland Health Service Executive agency. In its official informational pamphlets for the vaccine, the agency says the COVID-19 vaccine can "protect people and reduce the illness and deaths caused by the virus."

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and numerous health officials have found the vaccines, which have undergone clinical trials and been administered to millions in the U.S., to be safe and effective.

This is part of AP's effort to address widely shared misinformation, including work with outside companies and organizations to add factual context to misleading content that is circulating online. Learn more about fact-checking at AP.

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From: Nigel Fox

Sent: Friday 22 October 2021 16:21 **To:**

Subject: RE: Potentially bogus Covid-19 Poster

Many thanks

We are looking to flag concerns to Twitter and Facebook but almost impossible to prevent this type of thing. We've also made the HSE aware.

Best regards, Nigel

From:

Sent: Friday 22 October 2021 14:02 To: @hpra.ie>;

Subject: RE: Potentially bogus Covid-19 Poster

Hi Nigel

I am not aware of posters like this by the HSE. Text appears to be similar to that used in HSE booklets (apart from the piece on sudden deaths) given at vaccination centres. The picture on the top right hand corner of the poster hasn't even been copied correctly as there is normally text with that"

Kind regards

From: Nigel Fox

Sent: Friday 22 October 2021 13:48

To: <a>@hpra.ie>;

Subject: FW: Potentially bogus Covid-19 Poster

Dear both,

See attached and note below. We were aware of this from earlier in the week as it has been published on Twitter as well.

It's clearly been photoshopped but I'm just checking if you are aware of whether the HSE has produced a legitimate poster along these lines? I'd be surprised if they have but just wanted to check.

Many thanks,

Nigel

From:

Sent: Friday 22 October 2021 13:07 To: @hpra.ie>

Subject: Potentially bogus Covid-19 Poster

Nigel,

See attached poster which was sent in on the "Confidential" email – it mentions "Sudden Death" as a side effect of Covid-19 and also asks people to report side effects to the HPRA – it appears to be bogus – I'm trying to identify the Facebook page.

Paul

Health Products Regulatory Authority | An tÚdarás Rialála Táirgí Sláinte Kevin O'Malley House, Earlsfort Centre, Earlsfort Terrace, Dublin 2. D02 XP77

@hpra.ie Website: <u>www.hpra.ie</u>







Yesterday, 16:58

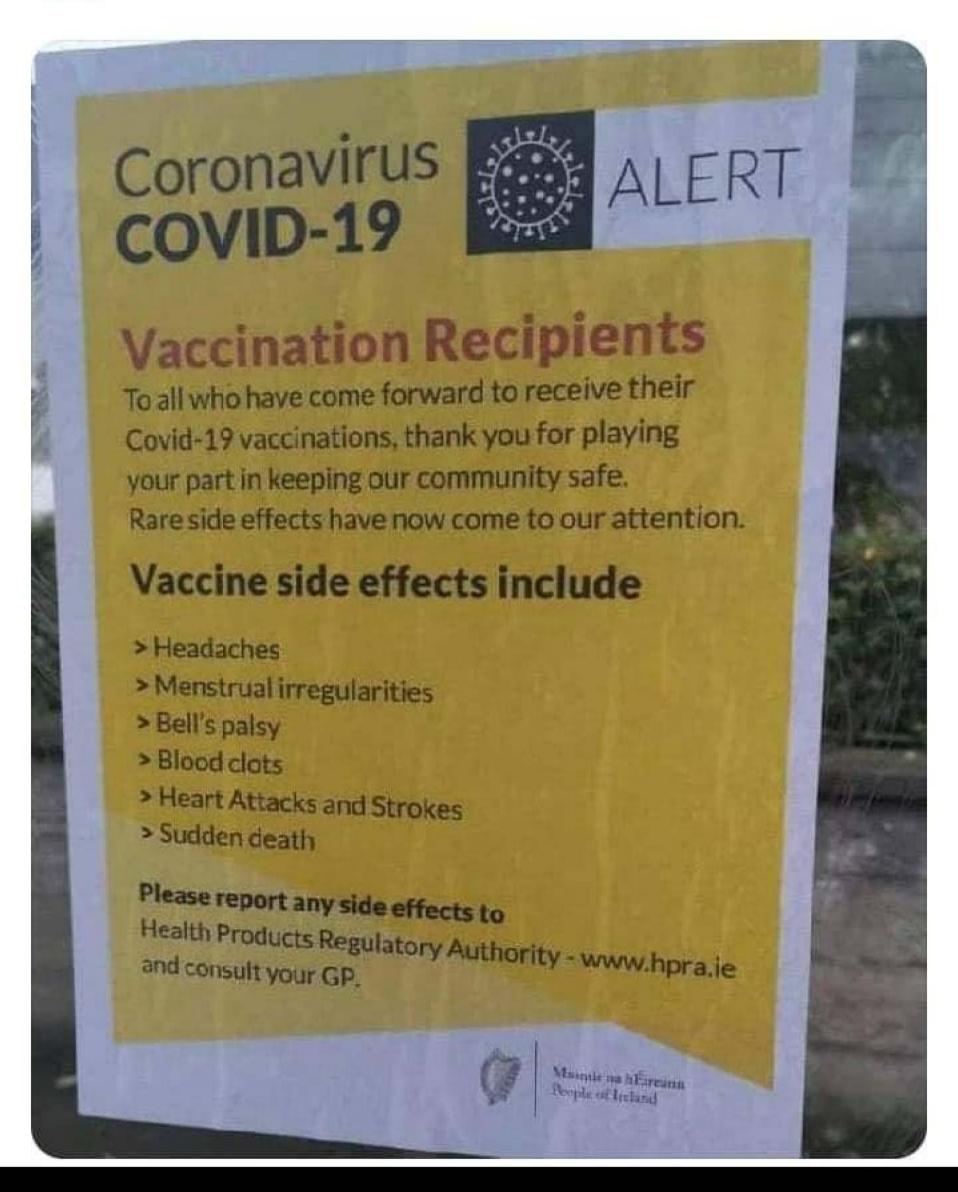






Sudden death is a side effect









Wednesday 27 October 2021 10:09 Sent:

To:

Nigel Fox

Cc: Subject:

RE: Potentially bogus Covid-19 Poster

Thanks Nigel

Kind regards

From: Nigel Fox

Sent: Wednesday 27 October 2021 09:56

To:

@hpra.ie>

Cc:

hpra.ie>;

Subject: RE: Potentially bogus Covid-19 Poster



The HSE has reported it to Twitter at our request. They have an ongoing engagement with Twitter regarding misinformation but it is ultimately a decision for Twitter as to whether they take action.

I don't expect the HSE will be able to do anything further as they are dealing with similar issues on a very regular basis I suspect. We're seeing this one because of the reference to the HPRA.

I've suggested a short statement that we can use in response to queries – whether direct to us or via Kano – and for our website. Should that approach be agreed, I'll send on the statement once available.

Best regards,

Nigel

From:

Sent: Wednesday 27 October 2021 08:02

To: Nigel Fox

@hpra.ie>;

@hpra.ie>

Subject: RE: Potentially bogus Covid-19 Poster

Hi Nigel

We have received a few queries in relation to those fake HSE posters. Has any approach been agreed as to how we deal with them or has the HSE put anything up that you are aware of?

Kind regards

From: Nigel Fox

Sent: Friday 22 October 2021 16:21

@hpra.ie>;

Subject: RE: Potentially bogus Covid-19 Poster

Many thanks

We are looking to flag concerns to Twitter and Facebook but almost impossible to prevent this type of thing. We've also made the HSF aware.

Best regards,

Nigel

From:

Sent: Friday 22 October 2021 14:02

To: Nigel Fox @hpra.ie>;

Subject: RE: Potentially bogus Covid-19 Poster

Hi Nigel

I am not aware of posters like this by the HSE. Text appears to be similar to that used in HSE booklets (apart from the piece on sudden deaths) given at vaccination centres. The picture on the top right hand corner of the poster hasn't even been copied correctly as there is normally text with that"

Kind regards

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Sent: Friday 22 October 2021 13:48

To: @hpra.ie;

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Dear both,

See attached and note below. We were aware of this from earlier in the week as it has been published on Twitter as well.

It's clearly been photoshopped but I'm just checking if you are aware of whether the HSE has produced a legitimate poster along these lines? I'd be surprised if they have but just wanted to check.

Many thanks,

Nigel

From:

Sent: Friday 22 October 2021 13:07 To: Nigel Fox @hpra.ie>

Subject: Potentially bogus Covid-19 Poster

Nigel,

See attached poster which was sent in on the "Confidential" email – it mentions "Sudden Death" as a side effect of Covid-19 and also asks people to report side effects to the HPRA – it appears to be bogus – I'm trying to identify the Facebook page.

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@hpra.ie

Website: www.hpra.ie

Sent: Wednesday 27 October 2021 09:01

To:

Cc:

Subject:

Attachments:

FW: Potentially bogus Covid-19 Poster

IMG-20211022-WA0000.jpg; RE: Potentially bogus Covid-19 Poster

Dear all

Please see something that Nigel sent on Friday. Please also see attached my response to him.

We have received a few queries about this poster over the weekend and yesterday so I have asked Nigel if there are lines to take or approach agreed about dealing with these queries.

Kind regards

From: Nigel Fox

Sent: Friday 22 October 2021 13:48

(@hpra.ie>;

@hpra.ie>

Subject: FW: Potentially bogus Covid-19 Poster

Dear both,

See attached and note below. We were aware of this from earlier in the week as it has been published on Twitter as well.

It's clearly been photoshopped but I'm just checking if you are aware of whether the HSE has produced a legitimate poster along these lines? I'd be surprised if they have but just wanted to check.

Many thanks, Nigel

From:

Sent: Friday 22 October 2021 13:07
To: @hpra.ie>

Subject: Potentially bogus Covid-19 Poster

Nigel,

See attached poster which was sent in on the "Confidential" email – it mentions "Sudden Death" as a side effect of Covid-19 and also asks people to report side effects to the HPRA – it appears to be bogus – I'm trying to identify the Facebook page.

Health Products Regulatory Authority | An tÚdarás Rialála Táirgí Sláinte Kevin O'Malley House, Earlsfort Centre, Earlsfort Terrace, Dublin 2. D02 XP77



Website: www.hpra.ie

From: Sent: To: Cc: Subject: Thanks Sinead, Nige	Thursday 28 October 2021 09:44 Sinead Curran; RE: Potentially bogus Covid-19 Poster I has confirmed he will send it on to us once it has been agreed.
From: Sinead Currar	
Sent: Thursday 28 C	october 2021 08:49 @hpra.ie>
Cc:	@hpra.ie>;
Subject: RE: Potenti	ally bogus Covid-19 Poster
Hello E Nigel/Kano prepare you might ask	, d text for responding to media queries in this regard. Nigel for a final copy, and we can use it as a basis (but tweak accordingly) for any queries from I has was very much written for media, hence may need to be made more public friendly for
To: Sinead Curran Cc:	@hpra.ie> 7 October 2021 09:20 @hpra.ie> @hpra.ie> ally bogus Covid-19 Poster
To: Cc:	October 2021 09:19 @hpra.ie> @hpra.ie>; ally bogus Covid-19 Poster
Good morning	
	to this issue yesterday. There are no LTT from the Comms team. was preparing a reply ag lines from the safety update, and with a view to redirecting the enquirer to the product
Nigel has separately	notified HSE, and can update you with regard to his other proposed actions.
Kind regards, Sinead	l

@hpra.ie>

Sent: Wednesday 27 October 2021 09:01 To: Sinead Curran

@hpra.ie>

Cc:

@hpra.ie>;

Subject: FW: Potentially bogus Covid-19 Poster

Dear all

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D02 XP77

@hpra.ie

Website: www.hpra.ie



From: Sent: To: Cc: Subject:	Friday 29 October 2021 15:01 Nigel Fox RE: Side effects poster - Pavilions Swords
Thanks Nigel	
From: Nigel Fox @hpra. Sent: Friday 29 October 2021 14:5 To: Cc: @hpra.ie>; Subject: RE: Side effects poster - F	
	your assistance re the bus shelters earlier in the week.
**************************************	as I think this particular one was also reported to them.
Best regards, Nigel	
	Pavilions Swords nated from outside the organization. Do not click links or open attachments
unless you recognize the se	ender and know the content is safe.
Hi Nigel, Quick update. These posters have appear. Best,	been removed and staff are checking the bathrooms regularly in case any more
From: Sent: Friday 29 October 2021 09:4 To: Nigel Fox @hpra.ie>	

Cc:

Subject: Side effects poster - Pavilions Swords

Hi Nigel,

We've been informed that the fake posters are now in the ladies toilets in the Pavilion shopping centre in Swords.

We'll make contact to get them removed.





Grand Canal Quay Dublin 2, D02 H996 Ireland

W Kano.ie



Public Relations Consultants Association Member CMS Quality Standard 20+ National PRCA Excellence in Communications Awards

Káno Communications is a limited company registered in Dublin, Ireland. Registration number is 140389

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From: Nigel Fox Sent: Friday 29 October 2021 13:09 To: Cc: Subject: RE: Anti Vac Poster Many thanks Sean. It looks like this was sent to Kano as well - not quite sure why it was sent to them but in fairness to emailed me this morning on it and said would reach out to the Swords Pavilion and ask for it to be removed. Best regards, Nigel From: Sent: Friday 29 October 2021 12:59 To: Nigel Fox @hpra.ie> Cc: @hpra.ie>; Subject: Anti Vac Poster Hi Nigel, A complaint re an anti-vaccine poster purporting to come from our good selves. This one is in the shopping centre, Swords Pavilion. Health Products Regulatory Authority | An tÚdarás Rialála Táirgí Sláinte Kevin O'Malley House, Earlsfort Centre,

Earlsfort Terrace, Dublin 2.

@hpra.ie

Website: www.hpra.ie

From:

Sent: Monday 1 November 2021 13:26

To:

Subject: RE: Yellow poster endorced by HPRA?

Hi

This is not a HPRA poster - please see the below link to our website which should clarify the matter for you.

http://www.hpra.ie/homepage/medicines/covid-19-updates/beware-of-misleading-vaccine-information

Regards

Paul

Health Products Regulatory Authority | An tÚdarás Rialála Táirgí Sláinte Kevin O'Malley House, Earlsfort Centre, Earlsfort Terrace, Dublin 2. D02 XP77

@hpra.ie

Website: www.hpra.ie

From:

Sent: Monday 1 November 2021 11:59

To: HPRA Confidential <reportacase@hpra.ie>
Subject: Fw: Yellow poster endorced by HPRA?

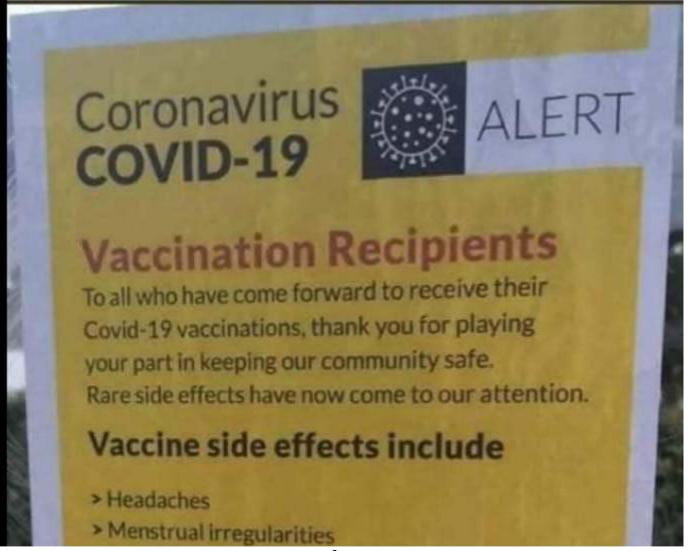
CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.





Mobile Uploads

Nou ja toe.....? Wat nou?



Hi

Im from South Africa,

I have seen the attached poster on various social media platforms, which is endorced by HPRA.

Please confirm whether it is fake or reliable?

AP news have reported that it is fake, but I would rather hear for myself.

Thanks

From:

Sent: Monday 1 November 2021 13:22

To:

Nigel Fox

Cc:

Subject:

RE: Yellow poster endorced by HPRA?

Nigel,

Thanks for that - I'll issue a response in this case and refer the sender to the website.

Thanks

Haalth Dandusta Danulatany Author

Health Products Regulatory Authority | An tÚdarás Rialála Táirgí Sláinte Kevin O'Malley House, Earlsfort Centre, Earlsfort Terrace, Dublin 2. D02 XP77

@hpra.ie

Website: www.hpra.ie

From: Nigel Fox

Sent: Monday 1 November 2021 13:16

To: @hpra.ie>
Cc: @hpra.ie>;

Subject: RE: Yellow poster endorced by HPRA?

Hi ,

We've added some content to the website which may be of assistance with the below and for responding to any future queries in connection with this issue.

http://www.hpra.ie/homepage/medicines/covid-19-updates/beware-of-misleading-vaccine-information

Best regards,

Nigel

From:

Sent: Monday 1 November 2021 13:10

To: Nigel Fox @hpra.ie>

Cc: @hpra.ie>;

Subject: FW: Yellow poster endorced by HPRA?

Nigel,

See below which came in on the "Confidential" email – the sender says she is in South Africa and is asking us to confirm if the poster is fake or otherwise – I have not responded to her thus far.

Health Products Regulatory Authority | An tÚdarás Rialála Táirgí Sláinte Kevin O'Malley House, Earlsfort Centre, Earlsfort Terrace, Dublin 2. D02 XP77

@hpra.ie

Website: www.hpra.ie

From:

Sent: Monday 1 November 2021 11:59

To: HPRA Confidential < reportacase@hpra.ie > Subject: Fw: Yellow poster endorced by HPRA?

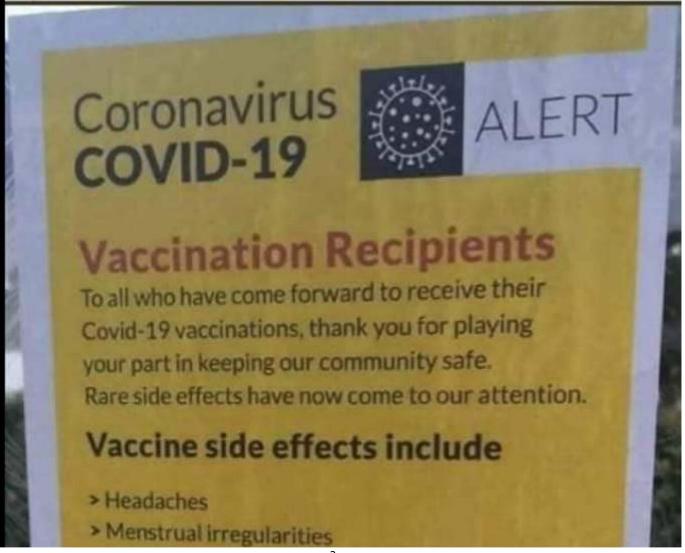
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Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

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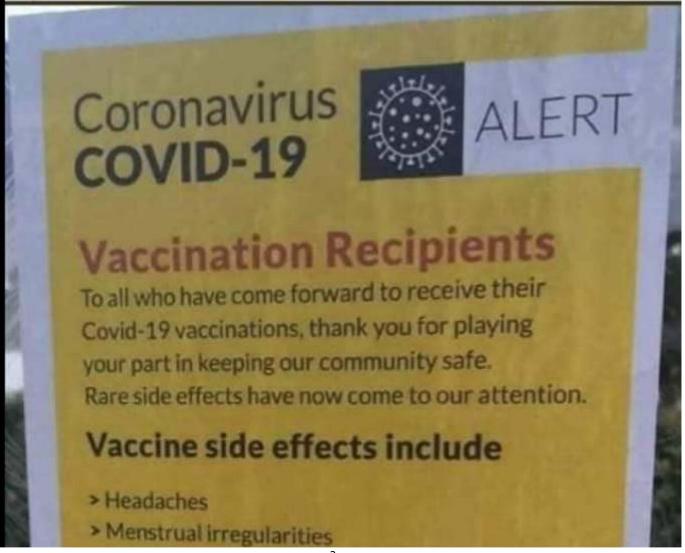






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Please confirm whether it is fake or reliable?

AP news have reported that it is fake, but I would rather hear for myself.

Thanks

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

From: Nigel Fox

Sent: Monday 1 November 2021 16:51

To:

Cc:

Subject: "This tweet is misleading!

Hi

Just further to our discussion earlier – and your previous engagement with the HSE – the original tweet highlighted by AP has now been flagged as "misleading".

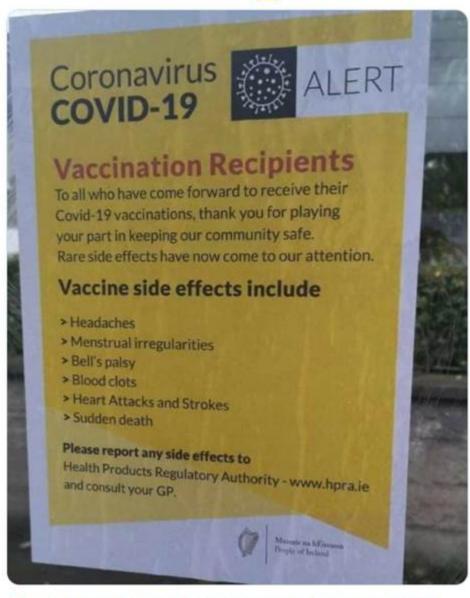
Many thanks to you and the team for the ongoing assistance with this one!

Best regards,

Nigel

← Tweet

Sudden death is a side effect in



(!)

This Tweet is misleading. Find out why health officials consider COVID-19 vaccines safe for most people.

10:17 PM · Oct 19, 2021 · Twitter Web App

From: Nigel Fox

Sent: <u>Tuesday 26 October 2021 13:03</u>

To:

Subject: RE: Your flyer

Already at 1,511 Retweets, 225 Quote Tweets and 2,021 Likes for that one Tweet.

See also:

https://twitter.com/search?g=ireland%20sudden%20death&src=typed_guery

From:

Sent: Tuesday 26 October 2021 12:44
To: Nigel Fox @hpra.ie>

Subject: RE: Your flyer

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Of course do you have any more tweets that you could share that would help the HSE

From: Nigel Fox @hpra.ie>
Sent: Tuesday 26 October 2021 12:28

To:

Subject: RE: Your flyer

Many thanks —— I've been asked by colleagues to confirm that it has been reported so just want to be 100% sure before responding.

From:

Sent: Tuesday 26 October 2021 11:58
To: Nigel Fox @hpra.ie>

Cc:

Subject: RE: Your flyer

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Thanks Nigel said she was contacting twitter I will reach out to again today.

We are too as well a couple of emails in from abroad asking if it is an official poster etc.

Siobhán

M +353 86 817 50 66

From: Nigel Fox @hpra.ie> Sent: Tuesday 26 October 2021 11:17
To: Cc:
Subject: RE: Your flyer
Hi
Thank you for that.
Can I just check if you heard anything subsequently from the HSE in relation to the Twitter complaint? The tweet is still public and continues to generate interest. We are receiving queries directly here too.
Best regards, Nigel
From: Sent: Sunday 24 October 2021 08:38 To: Nigel Fox @hpra.ie>; Subject: FW: Your flyer
CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.
See below from NZ no less I have replied ③
From: Sent: Friday 22 October 2021 23:33 To:
Subject: Your flyer
22/10/21
Hello my name is ,

I came across your Covid 19 Alert Banner you have warning consumers of its side effects.

Well well wadddya know...

Coronavirus COVID-19



Vaccination Recipients

To all who have come forward to receive their Covid-19 vaccinations, thank you for playing your part in keeping our community safe.

Rare side effects have now come to our attention.

Vaccine side effects include

- > Headaches
- > Menstrual irregularities
- > Bell's palsy
- > Blood clots
- > Heart Attacks and Strokes
- > Sudden death

Please report any side effects to

Health Products Regulatory Authority - www.hpra.ie and consult your GP.

Can you tell me how much to purchase 20 of those their much needed for our vaccinations clinics here in NZ

Please help us help ppl make wise decisions before it's too late it's mandate here but not yet made law I would appreciate any advice you can give because livelihoods verse vaccine refusal means no income for those of us who do not want this vaccine

Kind Regards ************* The information transmitted is intended only for the person or entity to which it is addressed and may contain confidential and/or privileged material and/or may be otherwise protected from disclosure. If you are not the intended recipient, you must not copy this message or any attachment or disclose the contents to any person. Any review, re transmission, dissemination or other use of, or taking of any action in reliance upon, this information by persons or entities other than the intended recipient is prohibited. If you have received this transmission in error, please notify the sender immediately and delete the message and any attachment from your system. HPRA E-mail Disclaimer Authority Kevin O'Malley House Earlsfort Centre Earlsfort Terrace Dublin 2 Tel + 353 1 676 4971 www.hpra.ie ********** The information transmitted is intended only for the person or entity to which it is addressed and may contain confidential and/or privileged material and/or may be otherwise protected from disclosure. If you are not the intended recipient, you must not copy this message or any attachment or disclose the contents to any person. Any review, re transmission, dissemination or other use of, or taking of any action in reliance upon, this information by persons or entities other than the intended recipient is prohibited. If you have received this transmission in error, please notify the sender immediately and delete the message and any attachment from your system. HPRA E-mail Disclaimer Authority Kevin O'Malley House Earlsfort Centre Earlsfort Terrace Dublin 2 Tel + 353 1 676 4971 www.hpra.ie



29 November 2021

Ken Foxe <u>ken@righttoknow.ie</u>

Re: Freedom of Information request FOI 21/11/002

Dear Mr. Foxe,

I refer to the request which you made under the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2014 for records held by the Health Products Regulatory Authority (HPRA):

Your request sought:

"copies of all records held referring or relating to the circulation of a bogus Covid misinformation poster bearing the name and web address of the HPRA. For avoidance of doubt, it is the post referred to here, which was distributed widely online and debunked by the AFP news agency: https://factcheck.afp.com/http%253A%252F%252Fdoc.afp.com%252F9QK2XU-1"

The HPRA has now made a final decision to part-grant your request of 2 November 2021.

The purpose of this letter is to explain that decision. This explanation has the following parts:

- 1. A schedule of the records covered by your request;
- 2. An explanation of the relevant findings concerning the records to which access is denied, and
- 3. A statement of how you can appeal this decision should you wish to do so.

This letter addresses each of these three parts in turn.

1. Schedule of records

A schedule is enclosed with this letter, it shows the documents that the HPRA considers relevant to your request. It describes each document and refers to the sections of the FOI Act that apply to prevent release. The schedule also refers you to sections of the detailed explanation given under heading 2 below, which are relevant to the document in question. It also gives you a summary and overview of the decision as a whole.

2. Findings, particulars and reasons for decisions to deny access

The sections of the Act which can apply to deny access to documents are known as its exemption provisions.

I have outlined below the exemptions applied to records which have been part granted. These records are clearly outlined in the schedule of records.

Please note that while these exemptions have been applied to the records released, they remain substantively un-redacted.

An tÚdarás Rialála Táirgí Sláinte, Teach Kevin O'Malley, Ionad Phort an Iarla, Ardán Phort an Iarla, Baile Átha Cliath 2, Éire Health Products Regulatory Authority, Kevin O'Malley House, Earlsfort Centre, Earlsfort Terrace, Dublin 2, Ireland

T: +353 1 676 4971 • F: +353 1 676 7836 • info@hpra.ie • www.hpra.ie



Section 37 (Personal Information)

In section 37, the Act states the following:

(1) Subject to this section, a head shall refuse to grant an FOI request if, in the opinion of the head, access to the record concerned would involve the disclosure of personal information (including personal information relating to a deceased individual).

"personal information" is information about an identifiable individual that:

(a) would, in the ordinary course of events, be known only to the individual or members of the family, or friends, of the individual, or (b) is held by a public body on the understanding that it would be treated by it as confidential

This exemption is designed to protect the personal privacy of individuals. This provision puts in place controls to prevent the inappropriate release of personal information about individuals.

The HPRA consider that the public interest is served by protecting individual's personal information.

Public Interest Test

It is the HPRA's opinion that the public interest would not be best served by the release of personal information. The HPRA believes that based on the information released the public interest is served and that there is no public interest argument in the release of personal names.

Section 30 (Functions and negotiations of FOI bodies)

In section 30, the Act states the following:

- (1) A head may refuse to grant an FOI request if access to the record concerned could, in the opinion of the head, reasonably be expected to—
 - (a) prejudice the effectiveness of tests, examinations, investigations, inquiries or audits conducted by or on behalf of an FOI body or the procedures or methods employed for the conduct thereof,

The HPRA has applied this exemption to parts of some of the records because it considers that the full release of these records could be reasonably expected to damage or harm the effectiveness of HPRA's negotiations and discussions into investigations such as the subject of this FOI request.

3. Rights of appeal

In the event that you do not agree with this decision you may appeal it. You can do so by writing to the Chief Executive, Health Products Regulatory Authority, Kevin O'Malley House, Earlsfort Terrace, Earlsfort Centre, Dublin 2 or by sending an e-mail to foi@hpra.ie.

Your correspondence should include a fee of €30 for processing the appeal. Payment can be made by way of bank draft, money order, postal order or personal cheque made payable to the Health Products Regulatory Authority. If you wish to make payment by electronic transfer please contact me by e-mail on foi@hpra.ie.

You should make your appeal within 4 weeks from the date of this notification, where a day is defined as a working day excluding the weekend and public holidays. However, the making of a late appeal may

An tÚdarás Rialála Táirgí Sláinte, Teach Kevin O'Malley, Ionad Phort an Iarla, Ardán Phort an Iarla, Baile Átha Cliath 2, Éire Health Products Regulatory Authority, Kevin O'Malley House, Earlsfort Centre, Earlsfort Terrace, Dublin 2, Ireland

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be permitted in appropriate circumstances. The appeal will involve a complete reconsideration of the matter by the Chief Executive of the HPRA.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding the above, please contact me by telephone at 01 6764971.

Yours sincerely,

HPRA Freedom of Information Officer

An tÚdarás Rialála Táirgí Sláinte, Teach Kevin O'Malley, Ionad Phort an Iarla, Ardán Phort an Iarla, Baile Átha Cliath 2, Éire Health Products Regulatory Authority, Kevin O'Malley House, Earlsfort Centre, Earlsfort Terrace, Dublin 2, Ireland

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Schedule of Records

FOI number: FOI 21/11/001

"copies of all records held referring or relating to the circulation of a bogus Covid misinformation poster bearing the name and web address of the HPRA. For avoidance of doubt, it is the post referred to here, which was distributed widely online and debunked by the AFP news agency: https://factcheck.afp.com/http%253A%252F%252Fdoc.afp.com%252F9QK2XU-1"

Record Number	RECORD	DECISION	EXEMPTION APPLIED
1.	False COVID-19 alert being circulated	Part Grant	Section 37 Personal Information
2.	Attachment to record 1	Part Grant	Section 37 Personal Information
3.	Attachment to record 1	Part Grant	Section 37 Personal Information
4.	Attachment to record 1	Part Grant	Section 37 Personal Information
5.	HSE statement on posters	Part Grant	Section 37 Personal Information

6.	Proposed HPRA statement response to queries	Part Grant	Section 37 Personal Information
		Grant	Section 30 Functions and negotiations
-	Proposed HPRA statement response to	Part	Section 37 Personal Information
7.	queries	Grant	Section 30 Functions and negotiations
8.	Proposed HPRA statement response to	Part	Section 37 Personal Information
	queries	Grant	
9.	Proposed HPRA statement response to	Part Grant	Section 37 Personal Information
	queries	Grant	Section 30 Functions and negotiations
10.	Anti Vac Poster	Part	Section 37 Personal Information
		Grant	
11.	Bus shelters – Fake posters removed	Part	Section 37 Personal Information
40	A :	Grant Part	Section 37 Personal Information
12.	Associated Press Time Sensitive Inquiry	Grant	Section 37 Personal Information
13.	Poster	Part	Section 37 Personal Information
		Grant	
14.	News article in record 13	Part	Section 37 Personal Information
		Grant	
15.	Potentially bogus Covid-19 Poster	Part Grant	Section 37 Personal Information
16.	Attachment to record 16	Part	Section 37 Personal Information
		Grant	
17.	Potentially bogus Covid-19 Poster	Part	Section 37 Personal Information
		Grant	
18.	Potentially bogus Covid-19 Poster	Part	Section 37 Personal Information
		Grant	

19.	Potentially bogus Covid-19 Poster	Part	Section 37 Personal Information
		Grant	
20.	Side effects poster Pavillions Swords	Part	Section 37 Personal Information
		Grant	
21.	Side effects poster Pavillions Swords	Part	Section 37 Personal Information
	·	Grant	
22.	Yellow poster endorced by HPRA	Part	Section 37 Personal Information
		Grant	
23.	Yellow poster endorced by HPRA	Part	Section 37 Personal Information
		Grant	
24.	Yellow poster endorced by HPRA	Part	Section 37 Personal Information
		Grant	
25.	The tweet is misleading	Part	Section 37 Personal Information
		Grant	
26.	Your flyer	Part	Section 37 Personal Information
	-	Grant	