

Ref. No: 2070
Date: 23/09/25
Subject: Pharmaceutical companies

REQUEST

For clarity this FOI is regarding formal arrangements between NHS organisations and one or more pharmaceutical companies, governed by the Department of Health and Social Care's definition: "Situations where, for the benefit of patients, one or more pharmaceutical companies, the NHS and others (e.g. Patient Groups) pool skills, experience and/or resources for the joint development and implementation of patient-centred projects and share a commitment to successful delivery."

Transparency is a must for these projects, according to both the government and the Association of British Pharmaceutical Industry.

ABPI oversees the implementation of its code of practice, which contains specific instructions for industry when participating in joint working projects. It says: "All Joint Working projects must be underpinned by a formal Joint Working Agreement, an executive summary of which must be made publicly available before the project begins."

I would therefore like to request the following records from you:

- 1. A copy of the executive summary of each joint working agreement your trust entered into with a pharmaceutical industry company from 1 April 2019 to 31 August 2025. If your trust has gone through any organisational changes in the intervening period between those two dates, such as being formed from a merger of two or more constituent trusts, please provide all the records that you hold going back as far as you can and please highlight the earliest date they correspond to.**
- 2. A copy of the trust's policy on joint working with the pharmaceutical industry.**

RESPONSE

Between 1 April 2019 and 31 August 2025, Mersey and West Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust has not held any working agreements with pharmaceutical industry companies. As a result, there is no policy in place.