ThinkWell supports All Trials in the initiative for Clinical trials transparency. We contacted MEPs to share the importance of All Trials registered and All trials reported.

The Honorable Chris Davies MEP responded:

Thank you very much for your email on the subject of clinical trials data transparency. Transparency of data in clinical trials is a subject which I consider very important. Liberal Democrat MEPs on the European Parliament’s environment, public health, and food safety committee have been advocating greater transparency of data in both the new clinical trials legislation, and in the new medical devices legislation.

I support the idea of registering all clinical trials and
making this information public.

In relation to approved medicines, it is essential that healthcare professionals have access to clinical trial data used to gain a marketing authorisation so they can prescribe based on detailed knowledge of the safety and efficacy of the medicine.

I support the position of my Bulgarian colleague Dr Antonyia Parvanova (Liberal group shadow rapporteur) in relation to the transparency of clinical trial data. In relation to clinical trials whose data is for a marketing authorisation application, a summary of the data should be provided once the trial is completed and full data in the form of the Clinical Study Report once the medicine is authorised.

As people without a scientific background could find clinical study reports difficult to decipher the same information should also be made available in the form of an easily understandable summary.

For clinical trials that are not intended for use in a marketing authorisation, data should be published on completion of the trial, or after the trial is halted if it cannot be completed. Data should be published in the form of a full clinical study report where possible (in halted trials this may not be possible). A summary report should also be published.

Liberal Democrat MEPs are discussing these issues with health charities and medical research organisations that participate in clinical trials, to ensure that data transparency requirements do not hinder non-commercial trials and result in fewer being initiated. Clinical Study Reports have been described as disproportionate for non-commercial trials by the Medical Research Council and Cancer Research UK, so there may be a need to provide an alternative solution for them.
I also welcome the decision by the European Medicines Agency to release the data concerning medicines already authorised. Hopefully this will come to fruition reasonably soon, although the recent legal challenge launched by AbbVie throws it into question and at the very least delays the process.

I hope this covers the view of Liberal Democrat MEPs in the European Parliament. Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Kind regards,

Chris Davies MEP