



On April 08, 2022, Metabiota received a request from US Right to Know (USRTK) to comment on reporting USRTK was doing on the PREDICT project, using documents and correspondence obtained under the FOIA process. To date, Metabiota has not been given access to the documents or correspondence on which USRTK is basing its reporting. This, of course, makes it difficult to address any specific question or details contained in the documents. Additionally, we must emphasize that Metabiota's response solely represents the view of our organization, and does not represent the views of USAID or the PREDICT Consortium.

USRTK's inquiry focuses on "data quality and biosafety concerns", which appear to be referenced in the FOIA documents. Based on contextual information provided by USRTK, we believe that:

1. The "data quality concerns" relate to early challenges experienced in the process of encoding data from paper-based forms into the PREDICT Consortium's cloud-based data management system. The discrepancies were rapidly identified and subsequently corrected through data re-entry and additional data entry training to the relevant team. We additionally conducted a systematic review and found no significant or systematic issues with the underlying data collected on the paper-based forms.
2. The "biosafety concerns" relate to a review of biosafety protocols and refresher trainings that were provided to reinforce active biosafety protocols. These steps were taken following the discovery of a new species of Ebolavirus (*Bombali ebolavirus*) in the wildlife surveillance data collected by the Sierra Leone team.

Lastly, USRTK inquired about the reason that several of the initially Metabiota-led countries changed control within the PREDICT Consortium over the life of the program. Such decisions are often complex and balance many competing country and programmatic needs, as well as budgetary considerations.