

TB vaccine is recalled

<http://www.itv.com/news/Britain1850584.html>

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A vaccine for tuberculosis is being recalled by the pharmaceutical company at the centre of the Government's smallpox contract controversy.

PowderJect Pharmaceuticals Plc says it is voluntarily recalling its BCG (tuberculosis) vaccine in the UK as a "precautionary" measure.

It follows an "interim suspension of the company's licence for BCG vaccine in Ireland", the company said in a statement tonight.

The move follows testing that found a small number of batches did not meet the end-of-shelf-life specification, the company said.

PowderJect said: "The regulators are satisfied that there are no related safety implications, although the batches were potentially less potent than normal."

PowderJect, run by Dr Paul Drayson, was recently awarded a £28m contract for the UK's smallpox vaccine.

The company came under the spotlight after it was revealed that Dr Drayson had earlier donated £100,000 to Labour.

Critics had asked why the contract was not put out to tender as it was in the US.

A US expert, Dr Steve Prior, claimed Britain had bought the wrong type of smallpox vaccine to guard against terrorist attack.