

GUIDANCE ON THE OPERATION OF THE ANIMALS (SCIENTIFIC PROCEDURES) ACT 1986

Introduction

This consultation seeks your comments on the attached draft guidance on the operation of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 (ASPA).

The closing date for responses is 15 March.

Changes to the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986

ASPA has been amended to transpose European Directive 2010/63/EU on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes.

What the draft guidance covers

The draft guidance builds on the 'quick start guide' published on 19 December 2012. It explains what amended ASPA requires and provides detailed guidance to holders of establishment licences, project licences and personal licences and new licence applicants. It also provides guidance on severity classification, humane killing and the accommodation and care of animals, including the status of Annex III to the Directive and current UK Codes of Practice.

What this guidance will replace

This guidance replaces the "Guidance on the Operation of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 (HC321)" published on 23 March 2000.

Who this guidance is for

This guidance is for everyone involved with animals that are bred for, supplied for, or used in scientific procedures. This includes:

- holders of establishment licences, project licences and personal licences;
- new licence applicants;
- other named people such as Named Veterinary Surgeons;
- others working in user, breeder and supplier establishments;
- Home Office inspectors;
- members of the Animals in Science Committee; and
- others with an interest in the regulation of animal research and testing.

Presentation of the guidance

In drafting the guidance, we have done our best to avoid bureaucratic language and to make it as clear and helpful as possible to ensure the requirements of ASPA are properly understood. We believe this is essential to ensure compliance and good animal welfare. We would particularly welcome any suggestions to further improve its presentation.

How to respond

Please complete the attached feedback form and then post or email your response to:

Animals in Science Regulation Unit (ASRU)
Home Office
4th Floor, South West
Seacole Building
2, Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Email: aspd-brp@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

Who can respond?

Anyone can respond to this consultation, but we would particularly like to hear from individuals and organisations with a direct knowledge of the relevant issues. If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, please make it clear who the organisation represents and, where applicable, how the views of members were assembled.

Additional copies

You can find this consultation at: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/science-research/animal-research/>

You can also request copies from the Animals in Science Regulation Unit at the address above. You may make additional copies without seeking permission. We can also provide copies in other formats, e.g. Braille, Large Font, or Audio, should you require it.

Help with queries

Please send any questions about the content of the draft guidance to ASRU at the address above.

What happens next?

We will use responses to prepare a further draft of the guidance for publication and submission to the Animals in Science Committee for advice (as required by ASPA section 21). The guidance will then be finalised and laid before Parliament.