



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

Animal and Plant Health Agency
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[REDACTED]
{By Email}

Our Ref: ATIC0801

14 March 2016

Dear [REDACTED]

PROVISION OF REQUESTED INFORMATION

Thank you for your request for information about APHA scientific research which we received on 15 February 2016. Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

The information you requested and our response is detailed below:

“Based on your advice I wish to resubmit my request using a narrower time period. The period I wish to apply to my request is the first six months of 2015 - January to June 2015.”

Your request you refer to is:

“I wish to make a request under the Freedom Of Information provisions. I seek information on:

the number of animals used by AHPA for scientific research; the species of animals used; the nature of the research undertaken.”

Please see [Appendix 1](#) for the figures given for animals completing studies for the whole year of 2015.

It excludes breeding mice, including transgenic mice, where the modification to their DNA has no effect on their health or welfare. This is because APHA systems are set up for the whole year and it would be difficult to work out the exact figure of these animals without double counting them in the ones already accounted for in the chart (i.e the chart ones were bred on one protocol and counted, then went on to be used in research under another protocol and counted again when they finished, and this activity crosses more than one recording year)

There is no scientific research output from these mice and ethically APHA have a policy to reduce the numbers of these animals to a minimum.

I attach an Annex which explains the copyright that applies to the information being released to you and contact details should you be unhappy with the service you have received.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact the Access to Information Team at the email address below or postal address at the top of this letter.

Yours sincerely

ACCESS TO INFORMATION TEAM

Email: enquiries@apha.gsi.gov.uk

Annex

Copyright

The information supplied to you is Crown copyright, unless otherwise stated, and is protected by the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988. You are free to use it for your own purposes, and for the purposes of news reporting. You can find details on the arrangements for re-using Crown copyright information at:

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In keeping with the spirit and effect of the Freedom of Information Act 2000/Environmental Information Regulations 2004, all information is assumed to be releasable to the public unless exempt. The information released to you may now be published on our website together with any related information that will provide a key to its wider context.

Complaints

If you are unhappy with the result of your request for information you may request an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this letter.

If you wish to request an internal review, please contact: The Access to Information Team at enquiries@apha.gsi.gov.uk or at the postal address at the top of this letter, who will arrange for an internal review of your case.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Please note that generally the Information Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have first exhausted APHA's own complaints procedure. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Appendix 1- Animal usage at APHA under ASPA in 2015

Species	Number	Reasons for use
Badgers	195	Study of the ecology and epidemiology of TB in badgers, control of reproduction and the development of a vaccine against TB in badgers.
Cattle	581	The majority of these were used for the development and licencing of a vaccine against TB and licencing of batches vaccines for protection of cattle against FMD. A much smaller number were used in research into atypical forms of TSE relating to protecting the human food chain and animal health.
Chickens	3994	The majority were used in research into Avian Influenza and Newcastle disease as part of activities of National, European and OIE reference laboratory. The rest were used in for licencing of coccidian vaccines and treatments.
Eggs over 2/3rds incubation	3940	Research into Avian Influenza and Newcastle disease as part of activities of National, European and OIE reference laboratory and other avian disease diagnosis.
Mice	3121	The majority were used for research into TSEs in support of the National, European and OIE reference laboratory. Development of vaccines for TB and support of national reference laboratory for rabies and research into potential treatments for the disease.
Partridges	19	Research into Newcastle Disease in support of the National, European and OIE reference laboratory.
Pigs	405	The majority of these were used for the licencing of batches of vaccines for protection of pigs against FMD. The rest were used for in influenza studies for protection of animal and human health, understanding of the immunology of protection in classical swine fever vaccination and atypical forms of TSE relating to protection of the human food chain and animal health.
Rabbits	162	Production of antisera for tests to protect animal and human health.

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Rats	177	The majority were studies into wildlife management and small number were for production of control material for dourine tests for protection of animal health.
Sheep and Goats	135	The majority of these were used for the licencing of batches vaccines for protection of sheep against FMD. A much smaller number were used in scrapie research and parasitology work relating to protecting animal health and control of reproduction in feral goats.
Stoats and squirrels	45	Studies into wildlife management.
Turkeys	55	Research into Avian Influenza as part of activities of National, European and OIE reference laboratory.