

We have taken your request to relate to applications for project licences under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986. Project licences authorise programmes of work entailing the use of animals in scientific procedures.

I confirm that we hold records containing some, but not all, of the information you have requested. The available information is set out in the annex to this letter. This shows that there were no formal refusals of applications received during the period 2004 to 2006. As has previously been made clear in response to Parliamentary Questions a feature of the regulatory regime under the 1986 Act is the discussion that often takes place at an early stage between applicants (or prospective applicants) and the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Inspectorate. Proposals which are unlikely to meet the requirements of the 1986 Act would usually be identified at this stage and either revised or withdrawn before formal refusal becomes necessary.

I hope that you find the information provided useful, and would like to assure you that you have been supplied with all of the information held in Home Office records. In addition, I would draw your attention to the fact that disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act is essentially disclosure to the public at large and that in keeping with the spirit and effect of the Freedom of Information Act, all information is assumed to be releasable to the public unless exempt. The Department therefore, will be simultaneously publishing the information you requested in the Home Office FOI disclosure log on the Home Office website, together with any related information that will provide a key to its wider context.

Table attached as an annex to the reply:

Project Licences								
Year project licence applied for	Number of licences applied for	Number granted in 2004	Number granted in 2005	Number granted in 2006	Number granted in 2007	Number not proceeded with	Number refused	Number that were still to be granted at year end
2004	595	413	122	2		39	0	19
2005	516		396	89	3	20	0	8
2006	598			433	135	19	0	11