

Part (i) Animal Experiments

We are responsible for the efficient and effective operation of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986. Parliament has built in considerable safeguards to allow experimentation in limited circumstances and to ensure proper regulation and monitoring. In carrying out our duties we aim to maintain the balance required by the 1986 Act between the interests of science and industry and animal welfare.

The Home Office does not conduct research involving animal experiments and has not funded research that would require the recipient of those funds to submit an application for a project licence under A(SP)A in the last five years, whether in a government laboratory or elsewhere. Most of the research for the 3Rs funded by the Department did not require licensed animal use under 1986 Act. The very small number that did require such use were carried out under pre-existing licence authorities (funded by other sources) and did not involve additional animal use in order to conduct the Home Office funded work.

Part (ii) research intended to replace the use of animals in experiments

In May 2004 the National Centre for Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research (NC3Rs) was established resulting in the Home Office budget for 3Rs research being allocated to the National Centre from 2005. Prior to 2005, the Department provided funds for the conduct research in the following areas:

- The 3Rs (replacement, refinement and reduction)
- The development and promotion of awareness of alternatives to animal procedures
- Aspects of interest or concern relating to the operation and/or effectiveness of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986.

All grants were awarded upon the advice of the Animal Procedures Committee's (APC) Research and Alternatives Sub-Committee and summaries of completed research funded by the Home Office are published in the APC Annual Reports, links to which can be found on their website: www.apc.gov.uk. The table below details the actual amounts spent by the Department on replacement research in the period from 2002 to 2007 and reflects the new arrangements brought about through the creation of the National Centre for the 3Rs. From 2005 sufficient funds were retained by the Department to enable the completion of ongoing research. From 2007 all funds for the 3Rs have been allocated to the NC3Rs.

(IMS – Table attached as excel document)

Although the Home Office no longer sponsors research on the 3Rs directly, it actively and financially supports the work of the NC3Rs. The Home Office contribution to the funding of the NC3Rs is published in their annual reports which can be found on their website at <http://www.nc3rs.org.uk/page.asp?id=201>.

I hope that you find this information of interest, and would like to assure you that you have been supplied with all the information that the Home Office holds. 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.

Home Office Figures on research funding for 3Rs

	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007
Actual spend on replacement research	£72,254	£101,722	£114,227	£84,235	£8,000
Total spend	£227,242	£291,915	£235,607	£127,688	£8,000