

The **A S C**
Animals in Science Committee

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Dear Norman

Animals in Science Committee: Response to the Review of the Assessment of Cumulative Severity and Lifetime Experience in Non-human Primates Used in Neuroscience Research – the Pickard Report

Your predecessor, Lord Taylor, asked that the Animals in Science Committee (ASC) consider and comment on the findings and recommendations of the above report, published by the Animal Procedures Committee in November 2013. The ASC has now discussed the report in detail, and herewith presents its considerations.

The ASC welcomed the Pickard Report, recognising it as both an important milestone and a thought-provoking contribution to debates surrounding the assessment of scientific procedures' cumulative severity and the lifetime experience of non-human primates (NHPs) subjected to them. The report was considered particularly timely given that EU Directive (2010/63/EU) has highlighted the need to consider both of these questions.

The ASC firmly endorses the importance attached to developing, both a clear understanding of the impact of procedures' cumulative severity on the animals in question and the means of effectively measuring this impact. Therefore, as reflected in the attached response, ASC members have sought to highlight the distinctive contributions made by the Pickard Report, and to identify and prioritise those elements which will be particularly valuable for further research and for the associated debates.

The ASC are of the opinion that the report's recommendations should be revisited, with each being clearly aimed at identifiable persons, bodies or roles. Each recommendation should also be ascribed associated actions, outcomes, measures of success and follow-up programmes so as to monitor progress in their implementation.

To begin this work, I am in the process of establishing an ASC Harm/Benefit Task and Finish Group whose terms of reference will include the assessment of cumulative severity and its effects. In order to ensure that this work is aligned with that of the Home Office, I intend to ask the Home Office's

Animals in Science Regulation Unit to nominate one of their senior officials to attend the group as an observer and to provide policy background.

I will ensure that you are kept informed of the progress of this, and other strands of ASC work, when we next meet.



Yours sincerely



John Landers