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Our ref: FOI 2014/05809
Your ref:

07 November 2014

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 13 October 2014 requesting the following information:

"In each of the last three calendar years please state how many animals have been used by the MoD for testing where any of the agents used in the tests has been ebola?"

For each year please state (i) how many of each type of animal the experiment was conducted on, (ii) whether the animals were anaesthetised in any way prior to exposure, (iii) what was the purpose of the experiment and (iv) the ultimate fate of the animal (did it die)?".

We are treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and we can confirm that some information in scope of your request is held.

The information you have requested can be found below.

Dstl's purpose is to maximise the impact of science and technology for the defence and security of the UK. As part of this, we develop and create battle-winning technology and protection equipment for UK Forces and Government. Our role in helping to protect the UK and its Armed Forces requires us to answer questions and develop solutions to problems that cannot currently be addressed without the use of animals in research.

Dstl returns the numbers of procedures (experiments) involving animals to the Home Office on an annual basis (per calendar year and not by financial year) in accordance with UK legislation.

During the calendar years 2011 to 2013 inclusive, Dstl conducted a number of experiments on mice and marmosets (non-human primates) concerned with developing appropriate

animal models of human Ebola virus infection and then using these animal models to evaluate the efficacy of putative medical countermeasures against Ebola infection. The table below provides the detail of the total number of procedures performed on each of the two species and returned officially to the Home Office for each of the years in question.

Species	Purpose	No of Procedures		
		2011	2012	2013
Mouse	Animal Model Development	0	100	6
	Evaluation of Putative Medical Countermeasures	0	70	24
Marmoset	Animal Model Development	0	14	26
	Evaluation of Putative Medical Countermeasures	0	0	16
Total		0	184	72

In the case of experiments involving mice, the animals were exposed to the virus either by the injected or inhaled route and the animals did not require any form of anaesthesia prior to exposure or during the experiment. All mice were humanely culled either during the study if they showed signs of distress or at the end of individual experiments.

In the case of experiments involving marmosets, the animals were exposed to the virus either by injecting it just beneath the skin or by the inhaled route. All animals were anaesthetised briefly prior to exposure with an appropriate dose of ketamine but remained fully conscious during the remainder of the experiment. All marmosets were humanely culled either during the study if they showed signs of distress or at the end of individual experiments by an overdose of anaesthetic.

If you are not satisfied with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, 1st Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, <http://www.ico.gov.uk>.

Yours sincerely

Dstl Secretariat