



Our ref: FOI 2016/10522

Your ref:

Date 28 November 2016

Dear 

Thank you for your letter of 24 October 2016 to the Secretary of State for Defence requesting the following information:

*"How many marmoset monkeys have been killed by the Ministry of Defence since 2013".*

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 I can confirm that all the information in scope of your request is held. The information you have requested can be found below.

Dstl is proud of its work to develop and create battle-winning technology and protection equipment for UK Armed Forces and Government through the best use of science and technology. The remit for Dstl to provide safe and effective protective measures for the UK and its Armed Forces against the threat posed by chemical and biological weapons and to enhance the treatment of conventional casualties on the battlefield could not currently be achieved without the use of animals.

All Dstl's animal research fully complies with UK legislation and is regulated by the Home Office. Dstl Porton operates in accordance with the principles of Replacement, Reduction and Refinement (the 3 Rs) and has an active programme to increase their implementation by exploring the use of alternatives in order to reduce the requirement for animals in experiments.

All the non-human primates used during the period 2013 to 2015 in studies at Dstl were common marmosets (*Callithrix jacchus*).

Dstl provides the numbers of animals used in research to the Home Office on an annual basis in accordance with UK legislation. Details of Dstl's Annual Return to the Home Office for the calendar years 2013 to 2015 are given in the table below.

Calendar year	Number of marmosets
2013	165
2014	39
2015	45

We will publish the 2016 figures next year.

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 us in the first instance at the address above. 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, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail [CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk](mailto: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 normally 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.org.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

Dstl Secretariat