



Email [REDACTED]

Our ref: FOI 2015/08115

Your ref:

Date: 14 October 2015

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 17 September 2015 requesting the following information:

1. *"In a previous FOI response [Ref : FOI2015-05944] you state that in 2014 there were 26 pigs killed in tests associated with looking into treatments for acute lung injuries. What were the lung injuries these pigs suffered from and how were the injuries inflicted on the animals.*
2. *In the same response [Ref : FOI2015-05944] you state there were 41 marmosets used in studies associated with nerve agent treatment. Which nerve agents were these animals exposed to?"*

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 the 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 protective equipment for UK Forces and Government. Our role in helping 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. All Dstl's animal research fully complies with UK legislation and is regulated by the Home Office.

#### **Studies Involving the Use of Pigs**

As in our previous response [Ref: FOI 2015-05944], a total of 26 pigs were used in a study to look at potential treatments for acute lung injury due to the inhalation of phosgene. The

inhalation of phosgene results in the inflammation of the tissues of lung associated with the accumulation of large amounts of fluid in the air sacs of lung (or pulmonary oedema).

Of the 26 animals used in this study, one was allowed to breathe air (acting as a control) and the other 25 animals breathed phosgene gas over a period of ten minutes. Both the air control and the phosgene test animals were fully anaesthetised during this exposure period.

#### **Studies Involving the Use of Non-Human Primates**

A total 41 marmosets were used in studies associated with the development of a pre-treatment for nerve agent poisoning during 2014. This pre-treatment currently consists of the drug pyridostigmine and we are assessing the value of introducing two drugs, physostigmine and hyoscine, to replace the current provision.

This particular study was designed to measure the concentration of all the drugs named above in the blood stream and over what period of time the drugs disappeared from the blood stream. None of the 41 marmosets employed in this study were at any time exposed to any nerve agent.

If you are not satisfied with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, 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](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 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