



Email : [REDACTED]

Our Ref : FOI2015-05944

Your Ref :

Date : 04 August 2015

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 3 July 2015 requesting the following information :

According to a Parliamentary Written Answer [Ref : 3596, 25 June 2015] you stated that 100 pigs and 67 non-human primates were used by the MoD for experimentation purposes in 2014.

- 1. For the pigs state the nature of the experiments and whether the animals were killed by the experiment, destroyed after the experiment or survived.*
- 2. For the non-human primates, state the species involved, the nature of the experiments and whether the animals were killed by the experiment, destroyed after the experiment or survived.*

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 protection 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

A total of 30 pigs were used in experiments to answer a series of closely related questions designed to improve the treatment of severely injured casualties. The aims were to compare several pre-hospital treatment strategies following traumatic injury. Some of these treatments included the administration of blood products. The traumatic injury being studied is relevant to both military and civilian casualties.

A further 34 pigs were used for blood collection; this blood formed part of the treatment strategies used in the experiments examining pre-hospital resuscitation.

A total of 26 pigs were used in various studies that evaluated various treatment strategies for acute lung injury.

Finally, 10 pigs were used to study the levels of a nerve agent in the blood and tissues. These data will be used for the development of a computer-based model of the distribution of the agent in the body. The development and validation of this model will eventually lead to a reduction in the numbers of animals used as we will have the ability to predict the effects of the agent without the need to expose animals.

All animals were humanely culled at the end of individual experiments.

Studies involving the use of non-human primates

All the non-human primates used during 2014 in studies at Dstl were common marmosets (*Callithrix jacchus*).

A total of 41 marmosets were used in studies associated with the development of a replacement nerve agent pre-treatment.

A further 24 marmosets were used to support the non-clinical assessment of therapeutic levels of an antiviral drug for post-exposure prophylaxis for Ebola virus infection.

Finally, 2 marmosets were used in a pilot refinement study to determine whether the use of bioimaging is an appropriate tool that will ultimately reduce the number of animals required in future studies of infectious agents.

All animals were humanely culled at the end of individual experiments with 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 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