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Dstl is Part of the
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Email : 

Our Ref : 2015/04726

Your Ref :

Date : 24 June 2015

Dear 

Thank you for your email of 29 May 2015 requesting the following information:

“How many pigs the MoD has used for experiments with explosives for in 2013? Please could you also state exactly what fate befell these pigs, in so much as what experiment was carried out on them and whether they survived the procedures? If you have the data available could you please provide answers to the same questions but in relation to the 2014 calendar year?”

How many pigs the MoD has used for experiments in 2013 where they were shot? Please could you also state exactly what fate befell these pigs, in so much as what experiment was carried out on them and whether they survived the procedures? If you have the data available could you please provide answers to the same questions but in relation to the 2014 calendar year?”

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 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 operates in accordance with the requirements of UK legislation, namely the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act (ASPA) 1986 and fully embraces the principles of the 3R's (Replacement, Reduction and Refinement). In accordance with this legislation Dstl returns the numbers of procedures involving animals to the Home Office on an annual basis.

The number of pigs used in experiments with explosives for the years 2013 and 2014 are presented in the table below.

Year	No. of Pigs
2013	19
2014	15

The animals were studied to answer a series of closely related questions designed to improve the treatment of severely injured military and civilian casualties. The aims were to compare a number of pre-hospital treatment strategies for both military and civilian casualties. The treatments represented the current standard of care for each of the military and civilian scenarios (as the comparator), emerging clinical practice and a potential new treatment.

In addition to the pigs in the table above, a total of 17 and 15 additional pigs were used in 2013 and 2014, respectively, in the civilian arm of the study – although these animals were subjected to the same treatments, none were exposed to explosives.

All of the animals used in the above studies were terminally anaesthetised, were not conscious during the period of the study and were all humanely culled at the end of individual experiments with an overdose of anaesthetic.

During 2013 and 2014, no pigs were used in experiments where the animal was shot, ie. the tissues penetrated by a projectile.

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