



Email [REDACTED]

Our ref: FOI 2015/08342

Your ref:

Date: 26 October 2015

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 28 September 2015 requesting the following information:

1. *In (i) 2013 and (ii) 2014 how many animals have been used by the MoD for testing where the agent has been Sarin gas?*
2. *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 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.

During the calendar years 2013 and 2014 two different types of experiment were conducted that involved the use of the nerve agent known as sarin (or GB) and these were concerned with supporting the licensure of the proposed replacement nerve agent therapy auto injector. The first study was concerned with providing data which showed that the proposed new nerve agent treatment was efficacious and the second study with obtaining information about the distribution and persistence in the blood stream of treatment drugs, more commonly referred to as a pharmacokinetic (PK) study. All these studies involved guinea-pigs and the numbers used

against the two types of study across calendar years 2013 and 2014 can be summarised as follows:

<b>Calendar Year</b>	<b>Efficacy Studies</b>	<b>PK Studies</b>
2013	-	30
2014	28	13

All the animals used in these studies were exposed to the nerve agent sarin by the subcutaneous route of exposure, i.e. a small amount of the agent injected just beneath the skin, and would not have required any form of anaesthesia.

All animals involved in these studies would have either died during the study, or were humanely culled at the end of the study, in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act.

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