



Our ref: 2016/04474
Your ref:

Date 17 May 2016

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 19 April 2016 requesting the following information:

- 1) *“ What was the total number of experiments carried out on animals, under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 (ASPA), during 2015 at the Defence Science & Technology Laboratory (DSTL) at Porton Down?*
- 2) *Please provide a list of all species used for all experiments carried out on animals, under ASPA, during 2015 at DSTL at Porton Down.*
- 3) *What was the total number of animals used for all experiments, carried out under ASPA, during 2015 at DSTL at Porton Down?*
- 4) *Please provide a breakdown of how many of each species of animals were used and for what purpose the experiments, under ASPA, were carried out”.*

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 information in scope of your request is held.

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 returns the numbers of procedures and 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 calendar year 2015 are given in the table below.

Year 2015						
Animal Species	Mouse	Rat	Guinea Pigs	Pigs	Non-Human Primate	Total
Number of Procedures	2894	124	116	58	57	3249
Number of Animals	2894	124	116	58	45	3237

The main purpose of the experiments undertaken at Dstl include regulatory testing, medical countermeasures to biological and chemical agents, hazard assessment, medical management and surgical care of traumatic injuries and the detection and identification of biological agents.

Dstl Porton Down conducts less than half of one per cent of the total animal experimentation carried out in the UK.

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, 2nd 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