



Our ref: FOI 2017/08497

Your ref:

Date: 25 September 2017

Dear 

Thank you for your letter of 23 August 2017 requesting the following information:

"I would be most grateful if I could have an appointment with you in the near future to discuss the killing of marmoset monkeys at Porton Down.

"I would also be most grateful if you could tell me how many Marmoset monkeys are being kept at present (today 23 August 2017) at Porton Down.

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 all the information in scope of your request is held.

The information you have requested can be found below.

Dstl is proud of its work to develop and create battle-winning technology and protection equipment for UK Armed Forces and Government through the best use of science and technology. The remit for Dstl to provide safe and effective protective measures for the UK and its Armed Forces against the threat posed by chemical and biological weapons and to enhance the treatment of conventional casualties on the battlefield could not currently be achieved without the use of animals.

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. Dstl Porton operates in accordance with the principles of Replacement, Reduction and Refinement (3 Rs) and has an active programme to increase their implementation by exploring the use of alternatives in order to reduce the requirement for animals in experiments.

On 23 August 2017, Dstl was holding a total of 347 marmosets at Dstl Porton Down.

With regards to your request for an appointment to discuss animal experimentation with the Rt Hon Sir Michael Fallon MP, this is not standard procedure. In the first instance, we would suggest that you engage with your constituency MP on the matters that concern you.

If you wish to complain about the handling of your request, or the content of this response, you can request an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, Ground Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review should be made within 40 working days of the date of this response.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may raise your complaint directly to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website at <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely,

Dstl Secretariat