



Our ref: FOI 2017/04551  
Your ref:

Date: 27 April 2017

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your letter of 26 February 2017, which was received at Dstl on 10 April 2017, requesting the following information:

*“Please tell me the total number of animals killed at portland down and a breakdown by type, species”.*

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 all the information in scope of your request is held. The information you have requested can be found below.

Dstl returns the numbers of 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 the calendar year 2016 are given in the table below.

| Year 2016      |       |     |            |     |                   |       |
|----------------|-------|-----|------------|-----|-------------------|-------|
| Animal Species | Mouse | Rat | Guinea Pig | Pig | Non-Human Primate | Total |
| Number         | 2167  | 199 | 236        | 27  | 116               | 2745  |

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

Dstl’s purpose is to deliver high-impact science and technology for the UK’s defence, security and prosperity. As part of this, we develop and create battle-winning technology and protection equipment for UK Forces and Government. We are taking steps to reduce the number of animals used but our role in helping to protect the UK and its Armed Forces requires us to answer questions and develop life-saving solutions to problems that cannot currently be addressed without the use of animals in research.

Dstl Porton Down operates in accordance with the requirements of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 and fully embraces the principles of the 3Rs (Replacement, Reduction and Refinement).

Finally, and with the greatest respect and understanding for your concern on this issue, please note that the MOD establishment to which you refer in your letter is at Porton Down, not Portland Down.

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