

By email only: asc.secretariat@homeoffice.gov.uk

16th July 2026

Dear Dr Sally Robinson,

Thank you for your letter of 27 February 2026 on the opportunities and risks of the use of generative AI in licensing, ethical oversight, analysis and insights.

I welcome the Committee's assessment of this rapidly developing area and your constructive consideration of how new digital tools could, if used responsibly, have a significant impact on the use of animals in science. It is right that we carefully explore the potential for these technologies to enhance consistency, capacity and insight across regulatory purposes.

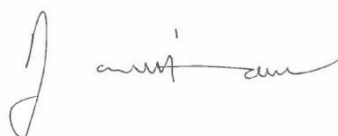
I agree that there would be value in further exploring how generative AI could be used effectively and appropriately in animals in science regulation, including whether more tailored guidance would be beneficial for applicants, Animals Welfare and Ethical Review Bodies, and the Animals in Science Regulation Unit. As you note, this work should consider both the opportunities and the potential risks, including in relation to the reliability of outputs, data security and public confidence, ensuring that any use of such tools supports robust and transparent decision-making. This should be built on the strong foundation already provided by the frameworks governing the use of AI and digital tools across the Home Office and wider Civil Service.

Officials in the Animals in Science Regulation Policy Unit will therefore issue a detailed commission to the Animals in Science Committee to seek expert advice on the use of AI, which will inform our approach on future guidance. The Animals in Science Committee should also engage experts in AI to complement their animals in science expertise.

In the meantime, the Home Office Regulator will write to establishments to reinforce that they remain responsible for the quality and accuracy of their submissions where they have used AI tools.

Thank you again for highlighting this matter for my attention and for the Committee's continued engagement on emerging issues relevant to the regulation of animals in science.

Yours Sincerely,



Lord Hanson of Flint