UK Research and Innovation

[redacted]

28 September 2026

Dear [redacted]

Freedom of Information request: FOI2026/00786

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 30 August in which you requested the following:

Your request:

I am writing to request aggregate information concerning MRC-funded research involving animals regulated under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 (ASPA).

For each financial year from 2019/20 to 2025/26, please provide:

1. All regulated animal research

- *The number of MRC-funded research grants awarded involving animals regulated under ASPA.*
- *The aggregate total value of those grants.*

2. Research involving dogs

- *The number of those grants involving dogs.*
- *The aggregate total value of those grants.*

3. Animal costs

Where this information is held in an existing and reasonably extractable form, please provide:

- *the aggregate value of animal purchase/acquisition costs included within the grants in question; and*
- *the aggregate value of animal maintenance/upkeep costs included within those grants.*

If possible, please provide these figures separately for:

- *all ASPA-regulated animal research; and*
- *research involving dogs.*

For clarity, I recognise that the total value of a grant involving animals is not necessarily the amount spent on the animal component of that research. I am therefore requesting these figures separately rather than treating the total grant value as expenditure on animals.

I am seeking aggregate information only and do not require the names of individual researchers, institutions or projects.

If any of the requested information is not held in recorded or readily extractable form, please simply confirm that it is not held in that form; I am not asking UKRI to create new information.

Our response:

I can confirm that UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) does hold some information relevant to your request.

The following information shows the amount of funding awarded and the number of grants funded by MRC for research involving the use of animals regulated under ASPA, by financial year.

The figures provided are not the specific cost of research involving animals, but the total amounts awarded over the lifetime of the grants, of which the use of animals may be only one aspect of the proposed research. The figures are the sum of all grants awarded in a given year, determined by the decision date, and have been rounded to the nearest hundred thousand.

1. All regulated animal research

Decision FY	Awarded Amount	Number of Grants
2019/20	£138.5m	158
2020/21	£150.3m	146
2021/22	£132.5m	142
2022/23	£204.3m	180
2023/24	£163.8m	131
2024/25	£234.6m	139
2025/26	£103.9m	88

2. Research involving dogs

Decision FY	Awarded Amount	Number of Grants
2019/20	£0.7m	1
2020/21	£2.9m	2
2021/22	£2.3m	2
2022/23	£2.6m	2
2023/24	£1.8m	1
2024/25	£0m	0
2025/26	£3.1m	2

3. Animal costs

This information is not held in the format requested. The information is not collected as separate costs in the UKRI grant management system (TFS).

Your rights

If you have any queries regarding our response please do let us know. If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review, explaining which elements of this decision you disagree with and why. Internal review requests should be submitted within 40 working days of the date of our response and should be addressed to:

Head of Information Governance
Email: foi@ukri.org

Please quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are still not content with the outcome of the internal review, you may apply to refer the matter to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the review procedure provided by UKRI. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: www.ico.org.uk.

If you wish to raise a complaint regarding the service you have received or the conduct of any UKRI staff in relation to your request, please see UKRI's complaints procedure[1].

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]
Information Governance
Information Rights Team
UK Research and Innovation
foi@ukri.org | dataprotection@ukri.org

[1] https://www.ukri.org/who-we-are/contact-us/make-a-complaint/#skipnav-target