UK Research and Innovation

[redacted]

13 October 2026

Dear [redacted]

Freedom of Information request: FOI2026/00835

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 15 September in which you requested the following:

Your request:

Thank you for your response to my request for information - FOI2026/00709.

You indicate that you will be able to provide information for the first part of my request, and have already done so in a previous FOI request for 2023. Please can you supply the following information:

The total value (in £s) of funding provided by UKRI to research projects using animals conducted under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986, for 2024, 2025 and 1st January - 31st August 2026 - providing separate yearly figures.

Our response:

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

Please note that due to the way this information is recorded, we are unable to provide a combined figure for all of UKRI to cover the periods you have requested. As with our responses to previous requests on this topic (FOI2024/00734[1] and FOI2023/00079[2]), please find below the information broken down by research council.

The financial information provided below is not the specific cost of research involving animals licenced under ASPA, but the total amounts awarded over the lifetime of the grants, or where applicable, the spend within a financial year, of which the use of animals licenced under ASPA may be only one aspect of the proposed research.

Unless otherwise indicated, the figures provided below are awards by year of decision, which is not the spend per year on these awards, as some awards can run for multiple years. The figures are the sum of all awards authorised per given year and have been rounded to the nearest hundred thousand.

Medical Research Council (MRC)

In calendar year 2024, the total commitment made to grants by MRC that involved the use of animals licenced under ASPA was £211.9m. For 2025 this figure was £160.8m. From 1 January to 31 August 2026, this figure is £98.4m.

In addition, MRC provides funding to programmes involving the use of animals licenced under ASPA in MRC institutes, units and centres. This data is not held by calendar year, therefore, by financial year, £95m was spent in

[1] https://ukri.disclosurelog.co.uk/disclosures/318ec014-3152-41ae-9270-900225cc8b16
[2] https://ukri.disclosurelog.co.uk/disclosures/69f22546-5b6e-43f3-ba34-00413835cdc7

2023/24, £99.1m in 2024/25 and £95m in 2025/26. Please note that funding may be spent on the same project in more than one financial year. As this information is held by financial year, MRC are unable to provide these figures for the period of 1 January to 31 August 2026.

Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC)

During calendar year 2024, EPSRC awarded £73.2 million in grant funding to projects that involved the use of animals licenced under ASPA. For 2025, this figure was £26.7m. From 1 January to 31 August 2026, this figure is £8.8m.

Innovate UK (IUK)

In calendar year 2024, IUK provided funding of £7.2m to grants that involved the use of animals. For 2025 this figure was £6.9m. From 1 January to 31 August 2026, this figure is £0.6m.

For IUK, these figures also include projects that involve non-ASPA animal work (e.g. livestock welfare management projects).

Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC)

In line with our previous FOI responses noted above, BBSRC funding information is recorded by financial year. £40.2 million funding was granted to projects involving the use of animals during 2023/24, £51m in 2024/25 and £65.1m in 2025/26. The start date of the financial year is 1 April and the end date 31 March.

Please note, BBSRC reports these figures by financial year rather than calendar year because grant funding is paid out over time, often across multiple years. Reporting spend on a financial-year basis therefore reflects the actual payments made during a given period, whereas calendar-year reporting would not align with BBSRC's financial reporting cycle. Using financial years ensures consistency with previous years' reporting and allows for meaningful comparison over time. For this reason, BBSRC are unable to provide figures for the period 1 January to 31 August 2026.

For BBSRC, across all data provided these figures may also include projects that involve non-ASPA animal work as this cannot be distinguished on the relevant system.

Natural Environment Research Council (NERC)

In calendar year 2024, NERC have recorded £33.9m of funding being awarded to grants that involved the use of animals licenced under ASPA. For 2025, this figure was £0.8m, however in order to respond to this request NERC had to retrieve the relevant information from Researchfish outcomes, which are currently only available up to 1 October 2025. Therefore, the figure for 2025 only includes grants up to this date and information is not held for 2026. Data for NERC is based on award start dates.

National Centre for the Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research (NC3Rs)

In calendar year 2024, the total commitment to grants by NC3Rs that involved the use of animals licenced under ASPA was £1.2m. For 2025 this figure was £0.2m. No grant funding involving the use of animals licenced under ASPA has been granted by NC3Rs during the period 1 January to 31 August 2026.

Other Research Councils

We can confirm that the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC), the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), Research England and the Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC) have not funded any projects using animals licenced under ASPA during the period of your request.

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[3].

Yours sincerely,

Information Governance
Information Rights Team
UK Research and Innovation
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[3] https://www.ukri.org/who-we-are/contact-us/make-a-complaint/#skipnav-target