



[REDACTED]

8 June 2023

Dear [REDACTED],

Freedom of Information request: FOI2023/00279

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 11 May in which you requested the following:

Your request:

Has any licence or funding been given or contributed by the Government of the time, from 2012 onwards to use Great Apes in research either in the UK, in UK territories or in other sovereign countries?" Please detail the licence, the funding and the purpose of the research and where the research was carried out. Where are the results published please?

Has the UK Government asked the EU to permit the use of Great Apes in research since 2012 and under what conditions? What funding and licences including those for Great Apes in the wild or in Zoos or in conservation has the UK Government funded or contributed to since 2012 in the UK, in UK territories and in sovereign countries? For what purposes have these licences been given? Where have the results been published?

What licences has UK Government provided or allowed since 2022 to the present day to allow research of any kind on Great Apes in the wild, in Zoos or conservation in the UK, in UK territories and in sovereign countries? What funding or contributory funding has the government made or allocated to such research?

Our response

I can confirm that UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) holds some information relevant to your request. Please see the information below.

With regard to parts 1, 2 and 3 of your request, UKRI does not regulate or licence the use of animals in research and does not hold any information on licensing or other government funding to use Great Apes in research in the UK, in UK Territories, or in other sovereign countries. Further, UKRI does not hold information on the government's interactions with the EU with regard to the licencing and use of animals in research.

The use of Great Apes in scientific procedures was banned in the UK, following the announcement made in 1997, more information is available [here](#)¹. UKRI has funded a few observational studies involving or with relevance to great apes (either in zoos or in the wild). Some information on the funded projects is available on [Grants on the Web](#)² using 'ape' in the search field. Further information on funding in this area can be found on [Gateway to Research](#)³ where you can filter by key terms, funder and start year to find information on projects supported by UKRI.

Under Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act - Information already reasonably accessible, as the information you have requested is already available in the public domain, we have provided the links above. Section 21 is an absolute exemption which means that there is no requirement to conduct a public interest test.

¹ <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200102/ldselect/ldanimal/150/15004.htm>

² http://gotw.nerc.ac.uk/list_short.asp?searchterm=ape&Submit=Search

³ <https://gtr.ukri.org/>

As part of our duty to advise and assist under the FOIA, you may find the following publicly available information of interest: an [NC3R publication](#)⁴ providing guidelines on the 'Non-human primate, accommodation, care and use'.

If you have any queries regarding our response or you are unhappy with the outcome of your request and wish to seek an internal review of the decision, please contact within the next 40 working days:

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 policy: <https://www.ukri.org/about-us/policies-and-standards/complaints-policy/>

Yours sincerely,

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

⁴ <https://www.nc3rs.org.uk/sites/default/files/documents/Guidelines/NC3Rs%20guidelines%20-%20Non-human%20primate%20accomodation%20care%20and%20use.pdf>