UK Research and Innovation

[redacted]

13 October 2026

Dear [redacted]

Freedom of Information request: FOI2026/00827

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 14 September in which you requested the following:

Your request:

Thank you for your attached response to my FOI reference FOI2026_00743. Thank you also for your advice and assistance under Section 16 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I am now filing a new FOI request having removed my original question 2.

MRC, EPSRC, Innovate UK, BBSRC, NERC

For each of the above 5 councils for calendar years 2024 and separately for 2025 please may I have:

(1) The total amount granted for research involving, the use of live animals, licenced under ASPA 1986.

(2) The amounts granted and the number of grants specifically where, in full or part, the less commonly used species of dogs are used or are intended to be used.

(3) The amounts granted and the number of grants specifically where, in full or part, the less commonly used species of Non- Human Primates are used or are intended to be used.

If any on your other councils grant money for research under ASPA 1986 please can I also have figures as above for these years. I understand that data is collected by financial year for BBSRC, could you please let me know the start and end dates of the financial year.

Our response:

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

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 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 in a given year and have been rounded to the nearest hundred thousand.

(1) The total amount granted for research involving, the use of live animals, licenced under ASPA 1986.

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.

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 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.

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.

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 is £6.9m.

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 responses, 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 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 is £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. 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.

(2) The amounts granted and the number of grants specifically where, in full or part, the less commonly used species of dogs are used or are intended to be used.

MRC

During calendar year 2024, MRC funded no grants involving the use of dogs. In 2025, MRC committed £3.1m to two grants involving the use of dogs.

No funding was provided in financial years 2023/24, 2024/25 or 2025/26 to programmes involving the use of dogs at MRC institutes, units and centres.

EPSRC

There were no EPSRC funded grants within 2024 or 2025 that indicated the use of dogs. Please note, the EPSRC retrieve this information from Researchfish outcomes, which are currently only available up to 1 October 2025.

Innovate UK

IUK does not hold this data.

BBSRC

In financial year 2023/24 BBSRC did not fund any research grants involving dogs that also required a license under ASPA 1986. In 2024/25 £0.1m funding was provided to one grant involving dogs. In 2025/26 this figure was £0.3m across two grants. This represents a total of two unique grants over the three-year period.

NERC

There were no NERC funded grants within 2024 or 2025 that indicated the use of dogs. Please note, the NERC retrieve this information from Researchfish outcomes, which are currently only available up to 1 October 2025.

NC3Rs

The NC3Rs did not make any awards in 2024 or 2025 where dogs are used or intended to be used.

(3) The amounts granted and the number of grants specifically where, in full or part, the less commonly used species of Non- Human Primates are used or are intended to be used.

MRC

During calendar year 2024, MRC committed £1.7m to one grant involving the use of non-human primates. In 2025, this figure was £2.5m across two grants.

In financial year 2023/24, MRC provided funding of £0.5m to one programme at MRC institutes, units and centres involving the use of non-human primates. For 2024/25, £2m was provided to two programmes and in 2025/26, £2m was also provided to two programmes involving the use of non-human primates. This represents a total of two unique programmes over the three-year period.

EPSRC

There were no EPSRC funded grants within 2024 or 2025 that indicated the use of non-human primates. Please note, the EPSRC retrieve this information from Researchfish outcomes, which are currently only available up to 1 October 2025.

Innovate UK

IUK does not hold this information.

BBSRC

In financial year 2023/24, BBSRC awarded grants to the value of £2 million to six projects that indicated the use of non-human primates. During 2024/25 this amount was also £2million across seven projects and £2.3m in 2025/26, for seven projects. This represents a total of 10 unique grants over the three-year period.

NERC

There were no NERC funded grants within 2024 or 2025 that indicated the use of non-human primates. Please note, the NERC retrieve this information from Researchfish outcomes, which are currently only available up to 1 October 2025.

NC3Rs

The NC3Rs did not make any awards in 2024 or 2025 where Non-Human Primates are used or intended to be used.

If any on your other councils grant money for research under ASPA 1986 please can I also have figures as above for these years.

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 involving the use of 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[1].

Yours sincerely,

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