



[REDACTED]

17 February 2025

Dear [REDACTED]

Freedom of Information request: FOI2025/00055

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 21 January in which you requested the following:

Your request:

re Animal Use under ASPA 1986 – [MRC Facts and Figures](#)¹:

1. *Please can you tell me the number and species of animals, that were killed without being used for regulated procedures for 2023?*

These additional statistics on breeding and genotyping of animals for scientific procedures, Great Britain were last compulsory to collect for the 2017 under EU Directive (2010/63/EU). Since then it has not been required that Establishments keep these figures however I would like them if you do. If you no longer keep these records please can I have the information that you submitted for publication relating to 2017.

2. *Were any animals rehomed in 2023? If so, please may I have their number and species.*
3. *Can you please tell me for 2023 how many, if any, project licences the Animal Welfare Ethical Review Body (AWERB) for your Establishment reviewed and decided to prevent them continuing for Home Office approval, this may be because for instance they identified a New Approach Methodology that could be used instead of animals.*
4. *Finally, can you please tell me how many sites are covered by your Establishment licence?*

Our response

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

1. *Please can you tell me the number and species of animals, that were killed without being used for regulated procedures for 2023?*

In 2023, 107,926 animals were sacrificed under Schedule 1 across MRC owned establishments that were not returned as part of the Home Office data collection on procedures on living animals.

This figure includes, for example, animals bred as a result of breeding genetically altered animals. It also includes animals sacrificed to collect tissue, which was used for experimental purposes. The breakdown of this figure by species can be found below:

¹ <https://www.ukri.org/who-we-are/mrc/our-policies-and-standards/research/research-involving-animals/facts-and-figures/>

| Species | Number |
|----------------|----------------|
| Mouse | 106,792 |
| Rat | 109 |
| Rhesus Macaque | 5 |
| Fish | 1,020 |
| Total | 107,926 |

2. *Were any animals rehomed in 2023? If so, please may I have their number and species.*

In 2023 three rats were rehomed by the MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology.

3. *Can you please tell me for 2023 how many, if any, project licences the Animal Welfare Ethical Review Body (AWERB) for your Establishment reviewed and decided to prevent them continuing for Home Office approval, this may be because for instance they identified a New Approach Methodology that could be used instead of animals.*

In 2023, one project licence application was prevented from continuing for Home Office approval by the relevant AWERB.

Prior to submitting project license applications to the AWERB, applicants are provided with detailed advice and guidance, including extensive initial review. The AWERB will only approve applications if there is a clear scientific justification for the methods to be used and if members are content that the harms involved in the programme of work are justified in terms of the likely benefits. As applicants are usually willing and able to implement any required revisions requested by AWERB, outright rejections of applications are rare.

4. *Finally, can you please tell me how many sites are covered by your Establishment licence?*

Three MRC-owned establishments that carry out research using animals have their own separate licences, with one other MRC-owned establishment being covered by its host university's establishment licence.

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:

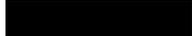
Head of Information Governance
Email: foi@ukri.org

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](#)².

Yours sincerely,


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

² <https://www.ukri.org/who-we-are/contact-us/make-a-complaint/#skipnav-target>