

11 February 2016

Dear Mr Steele

Re: FOIA Response Clarification

I am now in a position to respond to your request for clarification of my response of 4th February to your recent request for information under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act. My clarification is attached below.

The RVC is satisfied that in making this response, it has complied with the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act. If, for any reason, you are not satisfied with this response, you should request an internal review by writing to The Chief Operating Officer and Secretary to the Council, Royal Veterinary College, Hawkshead Lane, North Mymms, Hatfield, AL9 7TA, who will ensure that this is dealt with accordingly. There is no charge for such a request. Should you still be dissatisfied with the outcome of any such complaint, you have the right to make a complaint via the Information Commissioner, pursuant to Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act, via The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely,



Simon Jackson
Freedom of Information Officer

Your Request for Clarification

1. With regard to the procedures performed on mice, rats, *danio rerio* and salamanders in 2014, what percentage of these were for the purposes, respectively of investigating veterinary medicines, human medicine, or both?

Clarification

For the Home Office annual returns, we are required to give the purpose of the research that we undertake. This breakdown for the categories of species that you have requested is listed below.

It is important to recognise that basic research underpins both veterinary and human medicine and that translational or applied research that is stated on the licence to be for human medicine can be equally applied to veterinary medicine.

Mice

- 31 procedures on mice; Purpose: (Basic Research) Cardiovascular Blood and Lymphatic System.
- 401 procedures on mice: Purpose: (Basic Research) Endocrine System/Metabolism
- 34 procedures on mice: Purpose: (Basic Research) Immune System
- 1064 procedures on mice; Purpose: (Basic Research) Musculoskeletal System;
- 322 procedures on mice; Purpose: (Basic Research) Nervous System;
- 653 procedures on mice; purpose: Genetically altered with a harmful phenotype
- 82 procedures on mice; purpose: Genetically altered without a harmful phenotype
- 911 procedures on Mice: purpose was maintenance of colonies of established genetically altered animals, not used in other procedures.
- 121 procedures on mice; Purpose: (Trans/Appl Research) Human Cancer;
- 22 procedures on mice; Purpose: (Trans/Appl Research) Human Cardiovascular Disorders.
- 4 procedures on mice; Purpose: (Trans/Appl Research) Human Gastrointestinal Disorders including Liver
- 194 procedures on mice; Purpose: (Trans/Appl Research) Human Musculoskeletal Disorders;
- 719 procedures on mice; Purpose: (Trans/Appl Research) Human Nervous and Mental Disorders;
- 41 procedures on mice; Purpose: (Trans/Appl Research) Other Human Disorders,

Rats

- 25 procedures on rats; Purpose: (Basic Research) Endocrine System/Metabolism.
- 44 procedures on rats; purpose: (Basic Research) Musculoskeletal System;
- 60 procedures on rats; purpose: (Trans/Appl Research) Human Musculoskeletal Disorders;
- 2563 procedures on rats; Purpose: (Trans/Appl Research) Human Nervous and Mental Disorders;
- 6 procedures on rats; Purpose: (Trans/Appl Research) Other Human Disorders - cystic fibrosis / genetic disorder;

Danio rerio

- 55 procedures on zebra fish (Danio rerio); Purpose: (Basic Research) Nervous System;
- 1055 procedures on zebra fish (Danio rerio); Purpose: Maintenance of colonies of established genetically altered animals, not used in other procedures.

Salamandra

- 14 procedures on Salamandra salamandra; Purpose: (Basic Research) Musculoskeletal System.

2. With regard to Question 1, only the number of procedures performed on each species has been provided. Can clarification be provided on the number of animals used per species, as per my original FOIA request?

Clarification

The information provided was for the number of procedures performed, because this is the information that is provided in the annual returns to the Home Office. The College does not hold a central record of the number of animals used per species and consequently in order to provide this information to you, there would need to be an intensive manual search of records. This would cost more than the £450 *appropriate limit* allowed by s.12 of the FOI for public authorities such as this.