



# Home Office

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Mr Luke Steele  
[request-172534-cfcdc596@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-172534-cfcdc596@whatdotheyknow.com)

29 August 2013

Dear Mr Steele

## **Freedom of Information Request**

I write further to my letter of the 15 August about your request asking:

1. During 2012, how many project licences for the testing of Botox were issued or remained active?
2. During 2012, how many project licenses which concerned the testing of Botox were declines?
3. During 2012, which tests (Including, but not limited, LD-50) were used for the testing of Botox?
4. Listed by species, how many animals were used in the testing of Botox during 2012?

Your request has being handled as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Home Office holds the information you have asked for but is prevented from releasing it. Exemption under section 44(1)(a) of the FOI Act applies as well as adherence to the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. Full details are in the annex attached to this letter.

If you are dissatisfied with this response you may request an independent internal review of our handling of your request by submitting a complaint within two months to the address below, quoting reference 28526. If you ask for an internal review, it would be helpful if you could say why you are dissatisfied with the response.

Information Access Team  
Home Office  
Ground Floor, Seacole Building  
2 Marsham Street  
London SW1P 4DF  
e-mail: [info.access@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:info.access@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk)

As part of any internal review the Department's handling of your information request will be reassessed by staff who were not involved in providing you with this response. If you remain dissatisfied after this internal review, you would have a right of complaint to the Information Commissioner as established by section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act.

Yours sincerely

Steve Newnham  
Home Office Science

## Annex

1. During 2012, how many project licences for the testing of Botox were issued or remained active?

In line with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics (Implementing the Statistics and Registration Act 2007) and the National Statistic's guidance "Confidentiality of Official Statistics", providing the information requested would breach statistical confidentiality relating to individual establishments.

2. During 2012, how many project licenses which concerned the testing of Botox were declines?

In line with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics (Implementing the Statistics and Registration Act 2007) and the National Statistic's guidance "Confidentiality of Official Statistics", providing the information requested would breach statistical confidentiality relating to individual establishments.

3. During 2012, which tests (Including, but not limited, LD-50) were used for the testing of Botox?

4. Listed by species, how many animals were used in the testing of Botox during 2012?

Details of the numbers of animals and procedures used for toxicological purposes can be found in the Annual Statistics of Scientific Procedures on Living Animals Great Britain 2012 which can be accessed through our website at: <https://www.gov.uk/research-and-testing-using-animals>

The Home Office does not publish data broken down further than that published in the annual statistics. Statistics for individual licences are provided in confidence and received in confidence by Home Office staff. Exemption under section 44(1)(a) of the FOI Act applies.

### **Section 44(1)(a) Prohibitions on Disclosure**

Section 24 of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986, Section 24 "states (1) *A person is guilty of an offence if otherwise than for the purpose of discharging his functions under this Act he discloses any information which has been obtained by him in the exercise of those functions and which he knows or has reasonable grounds for believing to have been given in confidence.*

(2) *A person guilty of an offence under this section shall be liable:*

(a) *on conviction on indictment, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years or to a fine or to both*

b) *on summary conviction, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months or to a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum or to both.*