

Wendy Park
request-735323-09ca2e7b@whatdotheyknow.com

30 March 2021

Our ref: FOI 2021/081

Dear Wendy Park,

Request for Information under Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002

Thank you for your email which was received by the University on 10 March 2021 requesting the following information:

Did your university conduct experiments on animals in the year 2020?

If yes to the above question, how many animals were held on the premises for research purposes.

What species of animal were used?

How many of each species of animal were used in experiments?

What are the Home Office licence classification for these experiments in terms of pain, lasting harm, etc. if classified?

Were the animals used for medical or non medical research?

Which departments of your university were or are engaged in such research?

How many animals, held on the premises, were killed without being used for experiments?

University's response

Did your university conduct experiments on animals in the year 2020?

Yes, please see here for more information

<https://www.strath.ac.uk/science/biomedicalresearchatstrathclyde/>

Information Governance Unit, University of Strathclyde, Room 2.74,
McCance Building, 16 Richmond Street, Glasgow G1 1XQ

Email: foi@strath.ac.uk; Tel: 0141 548 5994

THE AWARDS
2019

Times Higher Education University of the Year 2012 & 2019
Times Higher Education Widening Participation Initiative of the Year 2019
The University of Strathclyde is rated a QS 5-star institution

WINNER
UK UNIVERSITY
OF THE YEAR
FOR A SECOND TIME

THE SUNDAY TIMES
GOOD
UNIVERSITY
GUIDE
2020
SCOTTISH
UNIVERSITY
OF THE YEAR


THE QUEEN'S
ANNIVERSARY PRIZES
For Honours and Further Education
2019

We refer to animals as having undergone 'regulated procedures'. A 'regulated procedure' is **defined** in the Act as any experimental or other scientific **procedure** applied to a protected animal which may cause pain, suffering, distress or lasting harm. These numbers are reported to the Home Office.

If yes to the above question, how many animals were held on the premises for research purposes.

The University does not hold this information based on a year. It varies from week to week as we have breeding colonies and animal numbers are not recorded in the way requested.

Accordingly, I have to advise you under section 17(1)(b) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA), that the University does not hold the information requested on this subject and is not aware of any other public authority which may hold relevant information.

What species of animal were used?

These are the species included in the return to the Home Office: –

- Mice
- Rats
- Gerbils
- Hamsters

How many of each species of animal were used in experiments?

We count 'regulated procedures', as defined in the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986, rather than animals. In all cases each animal underwent one procedure (this may include a series of steps) and there was no re-use:

- Mice 3253
- Rats 94
- Hamsters 17
- Gerbils 4

What are the Home Office licence classification for these experiments in terms of pain, lasting harm, etc. if classified?

The actual severity recorded for each of the animals is shown below:

2020	Non recovery	Sub Threshold	mild	mod	severe	Total
SPECIES						
Mice	82	1,576	1,337	236	22	3,253
Rats	32	0	62	0	0	94
Hamsters	0	0	17	0	0	17
Gerbils	0	0	4	0	0	4
						3,368

Were the animals used for medical or non-medical research?

All animals or tissue collected from the animals was used for biomedical research.

Which departments of your university were or are engaged in such research?

Strathclyde Institute of Pharmacy and Biomedical Science (SIPBS)
Department of Biomedical Engineering.

How many animals, held on the premises, were killed without being used for experiments?

The animal figures below are not recorded in the Home Office Annual returns as they are not classed as having undergone regulated procedures, as they are sacrificed using a Home Office Schedule 1 method.

These animals have had tissue collected for various in-vitro research. In addition, a small number have been used in a class practical where there was no better alternative method to address the learning objectives of the class. They make up a very small number of the figures below:-

69 mice
259 rats
6 Guinea pigs

The following animals have been in breeding colonies, used for tissue or surplus to requirements. We also freeze the cadavers and supply them free of charge to a local zoo for feed for the reptiles, which means they are not wasted.

The number of mice in 2020 was high due to the Covid-19 pandemic when animals had been bred and were available for research, but due to the situation, the research was not allowed to take place. We did our best to keep this number as low as possible by separating the breeding animals as soon as it was clear that the first lockdown was not just going to be for a few weeks:-

935 mice
83 rats

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Freedom of Information Review Procedure:

If you are unhappy with the University's response, please contact the Information Governance Unit by post or email to request a review of our actions.

Please note that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, University staff are working remotely. The best way to contact the Information Governance Unit is by email. There may be significant delays if you choose to correspond by post.

Information Governance Unit
University of Strathclyde
Room 2.74

McCance Building
16 Richmond Street
Glasgow G1 1XQ

E-mail: foi@strath.ac.uk

The University will then undertake an internal review and inform you of the result of that review.

All such requests for review should be made in writing, setting out in full the nature of the enquiry to which it pertains, and stating why you are dissatisfied with the response. A request for review should be submitted within 40 working days of either the date on which you received a response from the University or the date by which you should have received a response under the terms of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, whichever is the later.

Please note that links provided to information available elsewhere are intended to assist Freedom of Information access. Requests for information held by other public authorities and any complaints regarding access to such information should be addressed to that authority. These review procedures relate only to information which is directly under the control of the University of Strathclyde.

If the University is unable to resolve any complaint, you can contact the Scottish Information Commissioner, the independent body which oversees the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. A complaint to the Commissioner must be made within 6 months from the date of the University's response.

The Commissioner has an online appeal service which can be accessed via www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal.

Alternatively, you can contact the Scottish Information Commissioner via the following methods:

Scottish Information Commissioner
Kinburn Castle
Doubledykes Road
St Andrews
Fife
KY16 9DS

Tel: 01334 464610
Website: www.itspublicknowledge.info
E-mail: enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info

Yours sincerely,

Information Governance Unit
University of Strathclyde