

29 June 2021

Ref: FOI21 - 0272

Dear Requester,

Thank you for your email of 8th June 2021 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Please see the responses to each of your questions below:

1. **Did your university conduct experiments on animals in the year 2020?**
 - a) **If yes to the above question, how many animals were held on the premises for research purposes.**
2. **What species of animal were used?**
3. **How many of each species of animal were used in experiments?**
4. **What was the nature and outcome of these experiments?**
5. **What are the Home Office licence classification for these experiments in terms of pain, lasting harm, etc. if classified?**
6. **Were the animals used for medical or non medical research?**

For questions 1 – 6 please see the University of Exeter's response given in question 8.

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

Due to the nature of the work in these departments, we are unable to disclose. The information which you have requested contains information which is considered to be commercially sensitive and is therefore exempt from disclosure under Section 43 (2) of the FOIA. The information would also include personal data which is exempt under Section 40 (2) of the FOIA and information which would leave the University vulnerable to attack are exempt under Section 31.

Section 43 (2) is a qualified exemption and as such a public interest test has been carried out. In favour of disclosure we considered the principles of both transparency and accountability in the way a public authority performs its functions. Opposing this we considered the granular nature of the data requested and the harm which would be caused to the University in relation to our relationships with the numerous categories of partners, suppliers. The locations also contains significant details which highlight the working processes and data flows of the University. In a competitive market such data being released into the public domain is highly likely to impact the University's market position for research.

Section 31(1)a and 31(3) – Prejudice the prevention or detection of crime prejudice is also a qualified exemption. In this case the university considered the fact that the information requested goes into significant detail regarding property and information management at the University. In addition, the data includes the locations of special category data and other categories indicating potential value. Providing this level of detail to the public at large would put the University, staff, students and its systems and the data it holds at a significantly increased risk of attack.

Article 30 of the GDPR requires that as a data controller the University makes this documentation available to the supervisory authority on request and as such is accountable to that authority in this matter. As a disclosure to the public at large and given the factors discussed above the University feels that the balance in all cases lies strongly in favour of not disclosing this information under the Freedom of Information Act.



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

For questions 1 - 6 and 8 the requested data is exempt from disclosure in accordance with Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Section 21 exempts information, which is already reasonably accessible through other means. This information is reasonably accessible on our webpages; therefore, we have provided the appropriate links below.

<https://www.exeter.ac.uk/research/about/aboutus/animalsinresearch/faq/>

This response has been prepared in accordance with a request received pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The supply of documents under FOI does not give the person who receives the information an automatic right to re-use the documents without obtaining the consent of the copyright holder. If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. You must submit this to the Information Governance Office in writing within 40 days of receipt of this notification. Please quote the reference number above.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF. (<https://ico.org.uk/>)

Kind Regards,

Information Governance, University of Exeter.

