



22 May 2014

RECORDS MANAGEMENT SECTION

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Dear

Freedom of Information Request

Thank you for your email of 23 April 2014 requesting information about the use of animals in research.

The University of Edinburgh is the largest university in Scotland and one of the UK's top rated research universities. It has over 32,000 students, and over 8,000 full-time equivalent staff. In 2012/13 its turnover was £738 million.

The University of Edinburgh uses animals in research only when their use is justified on scientific, ethical and legal grounds and when no alternatives are available. All animal-related research at the University is carried out in strict compliance with the relevant legislation, which places tight controls on the use of animals for scientific research. This work is conducted under licences, which are reviewed and approved by the Home Office.

The University upholds the principles of "the 3Rs" (reduction, refinement and replacement), including the development and utilisation of alternatives to animals, such as in vitro methods, computer modelling and the use of human subjects where appropriate. Information regarding the University's policy on the use of animals in research is available on the internet at http://www.ed.ac.uk/polopoly_fs/1.7637!/fileManager/Policy%20statement%202013.pdf.

The number of animals used in experiments and a breakdown of species used in 2013 is shown the table below.

Species	2013
Amphibia	22
Fish	64,755
Mouse	169,871
Rat	5,426
Other rodents and lagomorphs	60
Bird	1,135
Agricultural species & other ungulates	585
Carnivores/monitored in the wild	11

Animal research conducted at the University of Edinburgh has progressed the understanding and treatment of disorders such as stroke, Alzheimer's disease, heart disease, multiple sclerosis and cancer. It has contributed to measures for preventing and treating diseases of third world countries such as malaria and other infectious diseases and has also helped improve the health and welfare of domestic and farm animals.

Right to review

If you are dissatisfied with this response, you may ask the University to conduct a review. To do this, please contact the University's Records Management Section in writing (including by fax, letter or email) or in some other recorded form (e.g. audio or video tape), describe the original request, explain your grounds for dissatisfaction, and include an address for correspondence. You have 40 working days from receipt of this letter to submit a review request. When the review process has been completed, if you are still dissatisfied, you may ask the Scottish Information Commissioner to intervene. The address of the Records Management Section is Records Management Section, University of Edinburgh, Old College, South Bridge, Edinburgh, EH8 9YL, or recordsmanagement@ed.ac.uk.

Yours sincerely

Ann-Marie Noble
Deputy Records Manager