

Michelle Mamane
request-256652-604f4038@whatdotheyknow.com

27 March 2015

Our Ref: FOI 2015/75 – F0487764

Dear Ms Mamane,

Re: Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 – Request for Information

Thank you for your email which was received by the University on 4 March 2015 timed 18:28 hours, requesting the following information:

- 1) By species, how many animals were used in research at the University of Glasgow in 2014? In the case of rodents, please list by genetic strain.
- 2) By species, how many animals were used in research at the University of Glasgow each year between 2000-2013?
- 3) By species, how many animals were bred for research at the University of Glasgow in years 2013 and 2014?
- 4) By species, how many animals were being kept for the month of February 2015 for experimentation and research purposes?
- 5) By species, how many animals were supplied to external facilities by the University of Glasgow in 2014?
- 6) What alternative methods are used in place of animal testing where using animals has been phased out?
- 7) What research and experimentation projects have animals been used for at the University of Glasgow in 2014?
- 8) By number of research project and/or experiments, how many projects were used with alternative methods in place of using animals, and how many were used using animals?
- 9) Copies of health reports for the University of Glasgow breeding colonies for 2014.
- 10) Copies of Home Office inspection reports, Nominated Animal Care & Welfare Officer (“NACWO”) reports and Named Veterinary Surgeon (“NVS”) recommendations for University of Glasgow in 2014.
- 11) What will the £5 million set aside for animal holding facilities in the University Estates Strategy be used for?

DATA PROTECTION AND FREEDOM OF INFORMATION OFFICE

Main Building, University of Glasgow, Glasgow G12 8QQ
Data Protection: Telephone: 0141-330-3111 E-Mail: dp@gla.ac.uk
Freedom of Information: Telephone: 0141-330-2523 E-Mail: foi@gla.ac.uk
The University of Glasgow, charity number SC004401

University's Response

Regulated procedures under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 are carried out by personal licensees under Home Office Project licences held by University of Glasgow staff.

Statement on animal research:

- Research using animals has made, and continues to make, a vital contribution to the understanding, treatment and cure of a range of major 21st century metabolic and infectious diseases in humans and animals.
- While new methods have enabled scientists and medical researchers to reduce work involving animals, some work must continue for further fundamental advances to be made.
- The University of Glasgow only uses animals in research programmes of the highest quality and where there are no alternatives. All such work is carried out under licences issued by the Home Secretary after weighing its potential benefits against the effects on the animals concerned. The University is committed to the principles of reduction, refinement, and replacement; on each project it ensures that the number of animals used is minimised and that procedures, care routines, and husbandry are refined to maximise welfare.
- The University is committed to the development of a number of alternative methods such as computer modelling, tissue culture, cell and molecular biology, and research with human subjects. Animal procedures are replaced with nonanimal techniques wherever possible. Where the use of animals remains essential, the University of Glasgow is committed to a culture of care and respect for animal welfare.
- The University's ethical review process involves lay representation and external and internal members. It provides ethical advice on standards of animal care, welfare, and accommodation, and ensures that those working with animals are aware of their responsibilities and receive appropriate training. Veterinary and animal care staff are actively involved in the ethical review of research, welfare, and care of animals and provide ongoing advice and support to researchers where necessary.

1) By species, how many animals were used in research at the University of Glasgow in 2014? In the case of rodents, please list by genetic strain.

Approximate number of animals used under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986, under Home Office project licences held by University of Glasgow staff in 2014:

Animal	Number
Amphibian	4
Birds	763
Cattle	8
Fish	3272
Pig	15
Rabbit	122
Rodent	50,488
Sheep	139
Total	54,811

Please see the attached **Appendix A** for the genetic strains of rodents.

2) By species, how many animals were used in research at the University of Glasgow each year between 2000-2013?

Please see the attached **Appendix B** for the animals used in research between 2006 and 2013.

The University of Glasgow does not hold the requested information for 2000-2005, and is not aware of any other public authority that could respond to your request. Section 17 of FOISA states that where public authorities receive requests for information that they do not hold, they must issue a notice advising that they do not hold the requested information.

3) By species, how many animals were bred for research at the University of Glasgow in years 2013 and 2014?

2013		2014	
Animal	Number	Animal	Number
Gerbils	167	Gerbils	96
Hamsters	245	Hamsters	206
Mice	23,778	Mice	30,498
Rats	1968	Rats	2455
Total	26,158	Total	33,255

4) By species, how many animals were being kept for the month of February 2015 for experimentation and research purposes?

Approximate number of animals kept at University of Glasgow in February 2015, under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 under Home Office project licences held by University staff:

Animal	Number
Amphibian	2
Birds	972
Cattle	7
Fish	4227
Rabbit	15
Rodent	8295
Sheep	114
Total	13,632

5) By species, how many animals were supplied to external facilities by the University of Glasgow in 2014?

In 2014, 22 mice were supplied to external facilities by the University of Glasgow.

6) What alternative methods are used in place of animal testing where using animals has been phased out?

Alternative methods such as computer modelling, tissue culture, cell and molecular biology are used in place of animal testing.

7) What research and experimentation projects have animals been used for at the University of Glasgow in 2014?

Projects using animals are for biomedical teaching and research, including research into human and animal diseases. The research is to advance knowledge and treatment of areas including cancer, cardiovascular diseases, auto-immune and inflammatory diseases, neurological conditions and animal diseases.

8) By number of research project and/or experiments, how many projects were used with alternative methods in place of using animals, and how many were used using animals?

In 2014 there were approximately 90 projects undertaken by University of Glasgow staff which required a Home Office licence for regulated procedures under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986.

Information on the number of projects using alternative methods is not held. The University of Glasgow is not aware of any other public authority that could respond to your request. Section 17 of FOISA states that where public authorities receive requests for information that they do not hold, they must issue a notice advising that they do not hold the requested information.

9) Copies of health reports for the University of Glasgow breeding colonies for 2014.

Please see the attached **Appendix C**.

You will note that names, building locations, and project licence numbers have been withheld. This information is exempt under sections 39(1) and 38(1)(b) and 38(2) of FOISA. Some information in this appendix has been redacted because it was not relevant to the request.

The University considers that the exemption under section 39(1) of FOISA relating to health, safety and the environment applies in this instance. There is a real concern that if the information were to be released this could lead, either at the present time or at some future date, to it being used in a manner that would identify and endanger the safety and wellbeing of University staff or those to whom the University has a duty of care.

The exemption under section 39(1) is a qualified exemption and is thus subject to the public interest test. The view of the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner (OSIC), in its advice on the application of the "public interest test", is that the public interest should not be interpreted as "of interest to the public". That is, the potential release of the information must be in the interests of the public and not merely of an individual interest. It is the University's view that the public interest is overwhelmingly in favour of the University securing the safety of its employees and those to whom it has a duty of care. There is little or no public interest in providing information that may identify individuals or locations, however indirectly, thereby risking their safety and wellbeing.

The University therefore concludes that the public interest is in withholding the redacted information and consequently the exemption under section 39(1) applies.

Additionally, information that could be used to identify individual members of the University staff, is considered as personal data as defined in the Data Protection Act 1998, (a) the identities are considered as personal data as defined in the Data Protection Act 1998, and (b) the release of the information would be in breach of the data protection principles, in particular:

- 1st Principle [Fair and Lawful processing];
- 2nd Principle [Reason for Processing];
- 6th Principle [Data Subject Rights], and
- 8th Principle [Transfer of personal data]

as defined in the Data Protection Act 1998. Therefore the exemption from release of the information applies as specified under sections 38(1)(b) and 38(2) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. This exemption is an absolute exemption under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

10) Copies of Home Office inspection reports, Nominated Animal Care & Welfare Officer (“NACWO”) reports and Named Veterinary Surgeon (“NVS”) recommendations for University of Glasgow in 2014.

The University of Glasgow does not hold the requested reports, and is not aware of any other public authority that could respond to your request. Section 17 of FOISA states that where public authorities receive requests for information that they do not hold, they must issue a notice advising that they do not hold the requested information.

11) What will the £5 million set aside for animal holding facilities in the University Estates Strategy be used for?

The specified funds may be used to develop a new facility in the future, which would replace older facilities.

The supply of documents under the terms of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 does not give the applicant or whoever receives the information any right to re-use it in such a way that might infringe the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 (for example, by making multiple copies, publishing or otherwise distributing the information to other individuals and the public). The Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (Consequential Modifications) Order 2004 ensured that Section 50 of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 (“CDPA”) applies to the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (“FOISA”).

Breach of copyright law is an actionable offence and the University expressly reserves its rights and remedies available to it pursuant to the CDPA and common law. Further information on copyright is available at the following website:

<http://www.ipo.gov.uk/copy.htm>

Your right to seek a review

Should you be dissatisfied with the way in which the University has dealt with your request, you have the right to require us to review our actions and decisions. If you wish to request a review, please contact the University Secretary, University Court Office, Gilbert Scott Building, University of Glasgow, Glasgow, Scotland G12 8QQ or e-mail: foi@gla.ac.uk within 40 working days. Your request must be in a recordable format (letter, email, audio tape, etc). You will receive a full response to your request for review within 20 working days of its receipt.

If you are dissatisfied with the way in which we have handled your request for review you may ask the Scottish Information Commissioner to review our decision. You must submit your complaint in writing to the Commissioner within 6 months of receiving the response to review letter. The Commissioner may be contacted as follows:

The Scottish Information Commissioner
Kinburn Castle
Doubledykes Road
St Andrews
Fife
KY16 9DS
Telephone: 01334 464610
Fax: 01334 464611
Website www.itspublicknowledge.info
E-mail: enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info

An appeal, on a point of law, to the Court of Session may be made against a decision by the Commissioner.

For further information on the review procedure please refer to (<http://www.gla.ac.uk/services/dpfoioffice/policiesandprocedures/foisa-complaintsandreview/>)
All complaints regarding requests for information will be handled in accordance with this procedure.

Yours sincerely,

Data Protection and Freedom of Information Office