



Home Office

Joan Ryan MP
PARLIAMENTARY UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE
2 Marsham Street, London SW1P 4DF
www.homeoffice.gov.uk

Andy Reed MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

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- 4 JUN 2007

Dear Andy

Thank you for your letter of 21 May 2007 to John Reid on behalf of about the campaign conducted by Uncaged Campaigns on pig organ transplant experiments. I am replying as Minister with responsibility for this policy area.

's letter has been prompted by our reply to a request for information made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. A copy is on the Home Office website and can be found at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/about-us/freedom-of-information/released-information/?view=Search+results&foi_SearchTerm=pigs

Our reply has been subject to an internal review and our decisions in respect of the original request have been upheld.

Your constituent asks us to answer three questions.

Disclose the project licence (with personal details and commercially sensitive information removed)

We have already covered this in previous correspondence. All the information disclosed in response to the freedom of information requests received on this subject, providing the full context including a narrative and clear statements as to what information the Department does not hold is contained in our response.

Provide meaningful information about the results of the experiments, including animal suffering

The licence was granted in 2003 but work under this licence began in 2005. Although we can access the researchers' records on request we do not hold the information about the results of the experiments, however the results will appear in papers published in the peer review scientific literature. The Animals (Scientific Procedures) Inspector is concerned with compliance with the 1986 Act and the licence conditions set out for each project. The Inspection reports are not a vehicle to duplicate the records of those involved in research using animals.

Information on endpoints and the likely severity of each protocol is recorded in the licence and has already been disclosed as part of the narrative. The standards of care and accommodation meet the provisions of the relevant Home Office Codes of Practice.

Ensure that any application to renew the licence is examined by the Animals Procedures Committee and an independent external expert

All applications received are treated on merit and referred to the Animals Procedures Committee or other experts as appropriate.

I trust that I have now addressed all of the relevant issues raised by

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joan Ryan', with a large loop at the start and a wavy tail.

JOAN RYAN