



University of East Anglia

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16 February 2017

Dear 

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Information request (ref: FOI_17-028)

We have now considered your request of 28 January 2017 as clarified on 01 February for on the numbers of animals used in UEA research, and documentation relating to the University’s Animal Welfare & Ethical Review Board (AWERB).

Our response is on page 3 of this letter, together with a copy of your request.

On this occasion, it is not possible to provide all the requested information. The Act contains a number of exemptions that allow public authorities to withhold certain information from release. We have applied the following exemption to part of your request.

Exemption	Reason
s.36(2)(b)(ii), Prejudice to the effective conduct of public affairs	Release of this information would, or would be likely to, inhibit the free and frank exchange of views for the purposes of deliberation

With regard to the application of s.36(2)(b)(ii), it is the reasonable opinion of the Vice-Chancellor (the University’s ‘qualified person’ under the Act) that disclosure of this information would be likely to have an adverse effect on the University’s ability to freely discuss, and therefore effectively support, research involving animals. This in turn would impact on one of the core objectives of the University, which is to produce internationally-renowned, innovative and diverse research.

We would note that this request is virtually identical to a request received from your organisation in 2016, [FOI 16-093](#)¹ and upon reflection, the opinion of the Vice-Chancellor, and consequently our response, is exactly the same as provided last year. We would therefore direct you to our published response to that request to provide an explanation as to why we feel that the above-noted exemption applies to this current request.

We hope this response will meet your requirements, however if you are not satisfied you have the right of appeal. If you wish to appeal, please set out in writing your reasons for appealing and send to the above address. You must appeal within 60

¹ https://portal.uea.ac.uk/documents/6207125/6884214/160506_Response+letter_FOI_16-093_Redacted.pdf/0c9d4bd7-6469-492a-b252-bc376f13556e

calendar days of the date of this letter. Any appeal received after that date will not be considered nor acknowledged. This policy has been reviewed and approved by the Information Commissioner's Office.

You also have a subsequent right of appeal to the Information Commissioner's Office. Further information is available on their website:

https://ico.org.uk/Global/contact_us, or by telephone on 0303 123 1113.

Please note that any material over which UEA has copyright is released on the understanding that you will comply with all relevant copyright rules regarding reproduction and/or transmission of the information provided.

Please quote our reference given at the head of this letter in all correspondence.

Yours sincerely

Dave Palmer
Information Policy and Compliance Manager
University of East Anglia

Response to Freedom of Information Act 2000 request (FOI_17-028)

I write in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("The Act") to request the disclosure of data held which concerns the use of animals in research by the University of East Anglia ("The Public Authority").

For the avoidance of doubt the term 'animal research' is defined as regulated procedures governed by the Animal (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 ("ASPA") and EU Directive 2010/63/EU ("The EU Directive").

The information I wish to request is as follows:

1. By species: How many animals were used in research by "The Public Authority" from January 1st 2016 to December 31st 2016?

The number of animals used in research by UEA within the period 01 January 2016 to 31 December 2016 is presented within the table below:

Species	Number
Mice	9020
Xenopus Laevis	278
Xenopus Tropicalis	96

2. Minutes, reports and correspondence of any Animal Welfare & Ethical Review Board ("AWERB"), formerly known as the Ethical Review Committee ("ERC"), or sub-committee at University level, including but not limited to departmental committees, from 2016, where these relate to experimentation or other work involving captive live animals, in addition to any guidance issued by these committees at any time if currently in use. For the avoidance of doubt the term 'committee' is used in broad definition and is inclusive of boards, groups or similarly natured structural enterprises.

[Clarified on 31 January 2017 to include any attached project licence applications within the scope of the request]

There is one such committee at UEA, which in 2016 met on five (5) occasions. The minutes and correspondence relating to these meetings are withheld for the reasons explained in the letter above.

There is no additional guidance issued specifically by the AWERB regarding to experimentation or other work involving live animals, however the UEA Research Ethics Policy² does provide guidance for staff in this area.

²<https://www.uea.ac.uk/documents/251484/3124686/UREC%2BPolicy%2BJan%2B2012.pdf/17206b85-ff33-4e13-adb9-a10ee6f32d0f>