



## Response to People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA)

July 2019



Following a recent enquiry from PETA we are publishing this response here in the interests of openness around animal research.

- All of our animal research at the University of Bath meets the requirements set out in the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 (ASPA) incorporating the European Union Directive 2010/63/EU.
- In line with this, the research highlighted by PETA was performed under a Home Office project licence that was approved by our local Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body (AWERB) and by the Home Office. This approval process involves a harm/benefit analysis which considers whether the harm that will be done to the animal can be justified by the potential benefits that the research will bring to humans, animals or the environment.
- It is illegal to conduct, and the Home Office will not licence, animal research work that could be done using non-animal methods.
- Home Office regulations require project licence holders to use the most refined procedures to meet their scientific objectives. All of our project licence holders complete 'continuing professional development' to ensure that they meet their obligations under ASPA and are up to date on developments with the 3Rs (the Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of the use of animals in research).
- The University's processes for ensuring high standards in the conduct of animal research include regular review of all Home Office licence applications. The specific issues raised in the PETA letter to the University, and the scientific case for conducting the research highlighted, has been discussed at Committee level. The University of Bath continues to support the humane use of animals in biomedical research where there are no alternatives.
- The University of Bath is a signatory to the Concordat on Openness on Animal Research in the UK and information on our policies and procedures can be accessed on our website (<https://www.bath.ac.uk/topics/animal-research/>).