Dear Applicant,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (FOI) request dated 14 January 2020, reference K/20/030.

Your request read:

“1. “By species: How many animals were used in research by "The Public Authority" from January 1st, 2019 to December 31st, 2019?

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 January 2019, 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”

The University of Leeds holds some information relevant to your request. For your convenience we have addressed each element of your request separately below.

1. “By species: How many animals were used in research by "The Public Authority" from January 1st, 2019 to December 31st, 2019?

The University of Leeds holds this information. However, as the information is intended for future publication, we consider it to be exempt as per section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act.

Each project licence holder is required to submit animal use data to the Home Office by the end of January each year. The figures are then reviewed and verified. Once this process is complete, the University of Leeds intends to publish the information on our website. Given this review process, we consider the public interest to be in favour of withholding this information at this time. This is to prevent inaccurate, duplicate or misleading information being put into the public domain, which would be likely to cause confusion.

You can find information on the number of animals used in research (broken down by type) for the years 2014-2018 (inclusive) on the animal research page of our website.

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 January 2019, 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”
The University of Leeds holds this information. Meeting minutes and annual reports of the Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Committee (AWERC) are published on our [website](http://www.leeds.ac.uk). Minutes of meetings which have taken place, but which are not yet available online are exempt under section 22 of the FOI Act as outlined above. Minutes will be published once they have been reviewed and approved by the Committee.

The Committee does not send or receive correspondence, and as such we do not hold any correspondence relevant to your request.

We hope this information is helpful. If you have any questions about this email, however, please do not hesitate to contact us on [foi@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:foi@leeds.ac.uk)

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you can request an Internal Review. Requests for Internal Review should be made in writing using the following contact information:

Post: Mr D Wardle  
Deputy Secretary  
The University of Leeds  
Leeds  
LS2 9JT

Email: [foi@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:foi@leeds.ac.uk)

Requests for Internal Review should be submitted within 40 working days of receiving the University’s response to your request. Further information about how the University manages Freedom of Information requests and about our complaints procedure is also available on our website ([www.leeds.ac.uk](http://www.leeds.ac.uk)).

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the review/complaints procedure provided by the University. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner’s Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Sincerely

Chloe Wilkins  
**Freedom of Information Officer**  
University of Leeds