

By email  
Carolyn Thomas MS

20 June 2025

Dear Carolyn Thomas MS,

Thank you for your correspondence in relation to Petition P-06-1497 entitled "End Welsh Govt funding of animal experiments and divert funds to modern, human-relevant technologies".

Cardiff University is committed to providing open and transparent information about our research involving animals and our standards of animal care and welfare. We have signed the [Concordat on Openness on Animal Research in the UK](#). As well as this, we provide information [on our website](#) which outlines our commitments in relation to animal testing.

Cardiff University uses cells grown in a lab, computer models and human tissues for some of our biomedical research. However, in certain cases, animals provide the only way for us to develop our scientific knowledge and produce treatments and cures for many serious conditions. Research using animals has saved and improved the lives of millions of people and animals.

We are increasingly able to use alternative methods of research, and are at the international forefront of developing many of these methods. We are also committed to the principles of replacement, refinement and reduction - the 3Rs. However, the study of animals remains essential. In these cases, our researchers who work with animals follow all the high ethical standards and strict legislation that safeguard animal welfare in the UK. I have included more information on our commitment to the 3Rs as an appendix.

In addition to this, we fully support and endorse the [ARRIVE](#) (Animal Research: Reporting of In Vivo Experiments) guidelines, developed as part of an NC3Rs initiative to improve the design, analysis and reporting of animal research.

If you have any further questions on this matter, please feel free to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Wendy Larner  
Vice-Chancellor



Mae'r Brifysgol yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu yn Saesneg. Ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn creu unrhyw oedi.

The University welcomes correspondence in Welsh or English. Corresponding in Welsh will not lead to any delay.

Elusen Gofrestredig, rhif 1136855  
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## Appendix: Reduce, refine, replace

Cardiff University is committed to the principles of reduction, refinement and replacement. The 3Rs state that procedures on animals for scientific research may only be carried out if there are no scientifically suitable alternatives that can replace the use of animals, reduce the number of animals needed, or refine the procedures to cause less suffering.

We recognise individual achievement in the application of the 3Rs, as well as contribution to innovation in the 3Rs. We do this both through local initiatives and by participating in national working groups established by the [National Centre for the 3Rs](#) (NC3Rs) and other bodies.

### *Replacement*

We ensure that animals are used only when there is no alternative by:

- guiding applicants for project licences to demonstrate that they have given full consideration to non-animal methods and have consulted the information on alternatives available on the web
- investing in the continued development of non-animal methods, such as computer modelling and in vitro tissue cultures where we have sufficient understanding of processes. For example, the School of Biosciences has developed a [micro-lung](#) using human tissue available as a by-product of lung and heart surgery. We are making a major investment in [brain imaging equipment](#) to study human brains in living people.
- encouraging non-animal methods through training, development and seminar programmes.

### *Reduction*

We ensure that researchers reduce the numbers of animals used by:

- regularly reviewing the numbers of animals used under individual project licences
- providing researchers with advice on experimental design and statistical analysis from experienced project licence holders
- managing breeding programmes carefully
- investing in the continued development of advanced technologies, including imaging techniques such as PET scans'



## *Refinement*

We achieve the highest possible standards of animal care and welfare and embed a culture of care in all those involved in research by:

- putting in place many safeguards to ensure the welfare of animals
- ensuring all of our animals, whether within a breeding colony, held as stock or involved in research, receive the same level of attention to their welfare from our committed animal carers
- ensuring the use of environmental enrichment in the form of nesting materials, toys, houses, fun tunnels, chew sticks etc.
- ensuring our researchers are constantly assessing their procedures to find improvements for the experience of the animals used in research.



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