

Dear Prime Minister

**Re: Joint Statement on Manifesto Commitments for Animals in Experiments**

We are writing on behalf of the undersigned members of the Animal Protection and Welfare Stakeholder Group, which meets with the Home Office Animals in Science Regulation Policy Unit. We represent animal protection organisations from across the UK and our collective millions of members and supporters.

We share a joint vision for the UK to be free from the use of animals in experiments, reflecting the long-standing desire of the majority of the public.<sup>1</sup> The benefits to animals, science, public health, and the economy of eliminating or replacing animal tests with advanced non-animal methods are widely recognised<sup>2-4</sup> and are already informing policy changes around the world shifting away from animal use.<sup>5-8</sup>

Ahead of the next election, we are calling on all political parties to commit to developing a nationwide roadmap for phasing out all experiments on animals. Such a plan must go beyond the legislative responsibilities to uphold the 3Rs (the replacement, reduction, and refinement of experiments on animals) by creating a plan with an ambitious timeframe, clear milestones, and achievable goals to accelerate a transition away from the use of animals in UK science.

Only then can the UK achieve its goal of becoming a world leader in science and reap the benefits this would bring for human and animal healthcare, innovation, public safety, the environment, and the economy.

Yours sincerely,

Animal Aid  
Animal Defenders International  
Animal Free Research UK  
Cruelty Free International  
Fund for the Replacement of Animals in Medical Experiments  
Humane Society International UK  
Naturewatch Foundation  
OneKind  
People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals UK  
Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

**References**

<sup>1</sup>YouGov. To what extent would you support or oppose a policy ending animal experiments in medical research in the UK and replacing them with non-animal alternatives (e.g. artificial intelligence and using human cells or tissue)? Conducted February 2021. Accessed 20 October 2023.

[https://docs.cdn.yougov.com/9gypaorb3v/AFS\\_Results\\_210223.pdf](https://docs.cdn.yougov.com/9gypaorb3v/AFS_Results_210223.pdf)

<sup>2</sup>Innovate UK. A non-animal technologies roadmap for the UK: advancing predictive biology. November 2015. Accessed 20 October 2023. <https://www.ukri.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/IUK-071221-RoadmapNonAnimalTech.pdf>

<sup>3</sup>BioIndustry Association, Medicines Discovery Catapult. State of the Discovery Nation 2018 and the role of the Medicines Discovery Catapult. January 2018. Accessed 12 September 2023.

<https://md.catapult.org.uk/resources/report-state-of-the-discovery-nation-2018/>

<sup>4</sup>Meigs L, Smirnova L, Rovida C, Leist M, Hartung T. Animal testing and its alternatives – the most important omics is economics. *ALTEX*. 2018;35(3):275-305. doi:10.14573/altex.1807041

<sup>5</sup>Transition Programme for Innovation without the use of animals. Animal free innovation: why TPI. Accessed 12 September 2023. <https://www.animalfreeinnovationtpi.nl/why-tpi>

<sup>6</sup>United States Environmental Protection Agency. New Approach Methods Work Plan. December 2021. Accessed 12 September 2023. <https://www.epa.gov/chemical-research/epa-new-approach-methods-work-plan-reducing-use-vertebrate-animals-chemical>

<sup>7</sup>European Food Safety Authority. Development of a roadmap for action on new approach methodologies in risk assessment. June 2022. Accessed 12 September 2023. <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/supporting/pub/en-7341>

<sup>8</sup>European Citizens' Initiative. Save Cruelty Free Cosmetics – Commit to a Europe Without Animal Testing. July 2023. Accessed 12 September 2023. [https://europa.eu/citizensinitiative/initiatives/details/2021/000006\\_en](https://europa.eu/citizensinitiative/initiatives/details/2021/000006_en)