

TEMPLATE LETTER TO MP

Dear

**Re: UK Government Consultation before summer recess:
Secrecy Clause in Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 Amendment Regulations 2012**

I am writing to ask if you would please press the Government for the repeal of the secrecy clause, Section 24 of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 Amendment Regulations 2012.

I am concerned about the use of animals in research and would like to see greater transparency and public accountability about the nature of animal research and the justification for use of animals.

Greater transparency on just the technical details of proposals to use animals in research would allow for wider scientific scrutiny and perhaps suggestions for advanced non-animal methods, or a different source of the information required, would assist with avoiding duplication and in some cases, a decision that the animal research should not be carried through.

Section 24 currently prevents the release of any information, which I understand from the National Anti-Vivisection Society (NAVS) is at odds with the commitments to transparency and public accountability within the EU Directive 2010/63/EU on animals in research, which has recently been incorporated into UK law.

There is no need to have a complete ban on all information from laboratories – the Freedom of Information Act is already in place and works for government, courts, the police, local government, the NHS and other bodies.

Repeal of Section 24 would not compromise health or safety, or protection of confidential information or intellectual property, because the Freedom of Information Act 2000 already provides for the protection of personal information and confidential information.

Furthermore, the NAVS points out that in order to scrutinise the scientific robustness of proposals to use animals in research, only technical details are required and personal information is unnecessary.

There is now broad support for this measure – in an NAVS parliamentary briefing on this issue, which can be viewed at <http://bit.ly/Xo4qAO>, it is noted that both the House of Lords Select Committee and the Animal Procedures Committee (APC) support the repeal of Section 24.

I hope that you will support transparency and public accountability over the use of animals in research and look forward to receiving your response.

Yours sincerely