

Huw Irranca-Davies AS/MS  
Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog ac Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros  
Newid Hinsawdd a Materion Gwledig  
Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate  
Change and Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Your ref P-06-1497  
Our ref HIDCC/00214/25

Carolyn Thomas MS  
Chair - Petitions committee

[petitions@Senedd.wales](mailto:petitions@Senedd.wales)

31 March 2025

Dear Carolyn,

Thank you for your letter of 3 February concerning the recent Senedd petition on animal experiments. The first point to make is that animal experimentation is not a devolved matter. The Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 and predecessor legislation has been overseen by the UK's Home Office for many decades.

The four Welsh universities which have had staff, premises and experiments licenced under the 1986 Act have all signed up to the 3Rs principles (Reduce, refine, replace) and the Concordat on Openness on Animal Research. These are coordinated by the National Centre for the 3Rs, which has several funding schemes to enhance and increase alternatives to animal testing. One example is the Cardiff University 'micro-lung', developed using human tissue left from operations.

The Welsh Government provides funding for Medr (and formerly HEFCW). Medr then distributes this funding to universities. Part of the funds will be for Quality Related (QR) funding. This provides stability of funding for longer-term strategic investment in an institution's research base. The amount received by each institution is based on a formula linked to their performance in the Research Excellence Framework (REF).

Neither the Welsh Government nor Medr, however, specify how institutions use this funding. Universities are autonomous institutions, free to decide on their research priorities and therefore how they will use this funding.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

I hope this provides useful context and background on the petition.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several fluid, overlapping strokes that form a stylized representation of the name.

**Huw Irranca-Davies AS/MS**

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