

Open Letter Calling For a Government-Led Plan to Phase Out Animal Testing

Dear Prime Minister:

We are writing to urge the new government to develop a roadmap – with an ambitious timeframe, clear milestones, and achievable goals – to reduce experiments on animals, with the objective of phasing out their use entirely.

The Need for a Transition Away From Experiments on Animals

It has been estimated that a “novel drug can take 10 to 15 years and more than \$2 billion to develop, and failure rates occur in about 95 percent of human studies”.¹ Clearly there is a problem with the current paradigm for developing and testing drugs and getting them to market, and animal use has been identified as one of the contributing factors.² As well as causing unspeakable suffering to animals, numerous scientific studies and reviews reveal that experiments on animals translate poorly into effective treatments and cures for human diseases, including the top killers in the UK.³ Far more could be gained from using non-animal approaches that are better suited to solving questions in biomedical research and regulatory assessment.^{4,5}

Opportunities for the UK

The urgent need to transition away from using animals and towards human-relevant, non-animal approaches is already changing policies around the globe, and the benefits to animal welfare, public health, scientific advancement, and the economy have been widely recognised.⁶⁻¹¹ To date, successive UK governments have done little to reduce experiments on animals, but new leadership could make a lasting impact on the UK science sector and reap the associated benefits across industry, employment, the economy, public health, and animal welfare.

Public Opinion

Animal welfare is of great concern to the electorate, and the public wants to see more being done to move away from experiments on animals, including a policy to end animal testing¹² and greater investment in non-animal methods.¹³

A Roadmap to Reduce and Ultimately Phase Out Experiments on Animals

It is crucial the nation does not fall behind international developments in accelerating 21st century science. Continued reliance on animal-based methods is a significant obstacle to the UK’s becoming a world leader in science. Therefore, we are urging the government to commit to a roadmap for reducing and ultimately phasing out experiments on animals, as well as hastening the uptake and further development of sophisticated non-animal methods in order to reap the benefits that they can bring to the UK public and animals.

We, the undersigned, call for a government-led roadmap – with an ambitious timeframe, clear milestones, and achievable goals – to reduce experiments on animals, with the objective of phasing out their use entirely.

Most respectfully,

The undersigned.*

*This letter illustrates the view and opinion of the signatories but not necessarily of their associated organisations.

Signatories

Jamie Bamber Griffith, PETA campaigner and actor
Lord Andrew Sharpe of Epsom OBE, Peer
Baroness Jenny Jones of Moulsecoomb, Peer
Lord Andrew Stone of Blackheath, Peer
Lord Christopher Rennard MBE, Peer
Bob Blackman MP, Conservative MP
Maureen Burke MP, Labour MP
Irene Campbell MP, Labour MP
Sarah Champion MP, Labour MP
Ellie Chowns MP, Labour MP
Neil Duncan-Jordan MP, Labour MP
Adam Dance MP, Liberal Democrat MP
Steve Darling MP, Liberal Democrat MP
Cat Eccles MP, Labour MP
Bill Esterson MP, Labour MP
Will Forster MP, Liberal Democrat MP
Wera Hobhouse MP, Liberal Democrat MP
Kim Johnson MP, Labour MP
Ayoub Khan MP, Independent MP
Brian Leishman MP, Scottish Labour Party MP
Carla Lockhart MP, Democratic Unionist Party MP
Rachael Maskell MP, Labour (Co-op) MP
John McDonnell MP, Labour MP
Abtisam Mohamed MP, Labour MP
Adrian Ramsay MP, Green Party MP and Co-leader
Jim Shannon MP, Democratic Unionist Party MP
Alex Sobel MP, Labour (Co-op) MP
Zarah Sultana MP, Labour MP
Sammy Wilson MP, Democratic Unionist Party MP
Sir Peter Bottomley, Former Conservative MP
Deidre Brock, Former Scottish National Party MP
Martyn Day, Former Scottish National Party MP
Anna Firth, Former Conservative MP
Patricia Gibson, Former Scottish National Party MP
Henry Smith, Former Conservative MP
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Kirsten Bradley, Liberal Democrat Councillor
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Jonathan Wallace, Liberal Democrat Councillor
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Ed Stephenson, Association of Liberal Democrat Councillors
Josh Matthews, Association of Liberal Democrat Engineers and Scientists
Katherine Ewing, Green Liberal Democrats
Gavin Grant, South Cotswolds Liberal Democrats Chair, former CEO to the RSPCA
Josh Nightingale, East Midlands Young Liberals Chair
Lucy Hurds, Herefordshire Liberal Democrats Chair
Paul Walter, Liberal Democrat Voice editorial team
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Joan Kenning, Liberal Democrat Member
Robert Marcus, Liberal Democrat Member
Jon Nicholas, Liberal Democrat Member
Pablo O'Hana, Liberal Democrat Member
Alex Purvis, Liberal Democrat Member
James Read, Liberal Democrat Member
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Animal Aid
Animal Defenders International
Animal Free Research UK
Cruelty Free International
Crustacean Compassion
Humane Society International UK
Lush Prize
Naturewatch Foundation
OneKind
People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) UK
Replacing Animal Research

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