

Ben Obese-Jecty MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

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Your Reference: BO10772

13 July 2026

Dear Ben,

Thank you for your letter of 25 June to the Security Minister on behalf of your constituents about the welfare of beagles at MBR Acres. I am replying as the Minister with policy responsibility for the regulation of the use of animals in science.

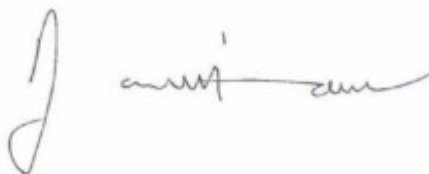
I first want to recognise the strength of public interest in the use of animals in science and the beagle breeding facility, MBR Acres, particularly during periods of extreme weather. As you note, there are a range of robust protections that licence holders under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 (ASPA) must adhere to. The Animals in Science Regulation Unit (ASRU) assures compliance with ASPA through a programme of announced and unannounced audits. Recent audit reports of MBR Acres in November 2025 and April 2024 have been published and did not identify evidence of non-compliance.

Further to the protections you outlined in your letter, I want to assure you that ASRU maintains regular engagement with MBR Acres as part of its ongoing oversight of establishments licensed under ASPA. This includes updates on operational matters and environmental conditions, including temperature monitoring, to ensure that appropriate standards of animal welfare are maintained.

The Government remains committed to maintaining a rigorous regulatory framework that protects animals used in science and supports transparency and public confidence. We are working towards our vision of the replacement of the use of animals in science through our published strategy.

Thank you for taking the time to write to the Home Office.

Yours sincerely,



Lord Hanson of Flint