

## **Initial Response from the Home Office dated 12 September 2025**

In response to questions 1, 2, 3, 7, 9, 11, 12 licensed establishments are responsible for the welfare of animals in their care at all times, including during extreme weather. Under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 (ASPA), all such establishments must comply with legal requirements and standards set out in the Home Office's published Operational Guidance and Code of Practice.

These documents require that the physiological needs of animals are met and require contingency plans (such as for temperature extremes). Establishment licence holders must ensure sufficient trained staff are in place to maintain high standards of care and facility management. Daily checks by competent personnel are mandated under Standard Condition 4 to monitor animal welfare and environmental conditions, with prompt action required to address any issues.

The Animals in Science Regulation Unit (ASRU) monitors compliance through regular audits, including both announced and unannounced visits, to assess animal welfare and adherence to ASPA.

In response to question 4, Standard Condition 18 is a legal requirement whereby any breaches, or potential breaches of licence conditions must be reported to the Regulator. I can therefore provide assurance that the framework provides for the welfare of dogs being closely monitored.

In response to question 5, the Animals in Science Regulation Unit contains a record of all incidents of non-compliance each year. The Annual Reports can be found at:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/animals-in-scienceregulation-unit-annual-reports>.

In response to question 6, the Animals in Science Regulator takes any instances of non compliance very seriously and has published its compliance framework which explains how it identifies and investigates potential incidents of non-compliance and decides on appropriate and proportionate measures and remedies where non-compliance has been found to occur. The Regulator's published compliance policy aims to reduce the risk of future non-compliance.

All cases of non-compliance are thoroughly investigated, and the outcomes are published in ASRU's annual report.

In response to question 8, Section 2.2.1 of the Code of Practice requires that air circulation, dust levels, and gas concentrations are kept within limits that are not harmful to the animals housed, and are appropriate for the housing system in operation.

In response to question 10 and 13, licensed establishments are responsible for the welfare of employees at animal testing facilities. The Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 (ASPA) does not require the Regulator to review Health and Safety Reports.