

Date: 28th March 2025
Ref: CORP 2025 - 058

Dear xxx

Freedom of Information request: Funding of scientific research involving use of animals under ASPA (CORP 2025 - 058)

Thank you for your request for information which the Trust received on 7th March 2025.

Your Request:

- 1) *Your comment: 'The Trust may, on occasion, support applications from researchers seeking external funding for pre-clinical research, which may include animal research.' Please clarify how the Trust supports such applications. For instance, do you agree to conduct clinical trials within such a project or contribute funding to a larger project within which animal studies funded externally may take place? If neither, please state what form the support takes.*
- 2) *Do you occasionally support or participate in projects/studies which involve the use of animals undertaken by the Cardiff ECMC initiative?*
- 3) *Do you occasionally support or participate in projects/studies which involve the use of animals conducted by the Drug Discovery Institute of Cardiff University?*

Please find the Trust's response below:

- 1) **Your comment: 'The Trust may, on occasion, support applications from researchers seeking external funding for pre-clinical research, which may include animal research.' Please clarify how the Trust supports such applications. For instance, do you agree to conduct clinical trials within such a project or contribute funding to a larger project within which animal studies funded externally may take place? If neither, please state what form the support takes.**

When Velindre University NHS Trust states it 'may, on occasion, support applications from researchers seeking external funding for pre-clinical research, which may include animal research.', this does not mean that the Trust conducts, funds or directly participates in in research involving animals – i.e., it does not mean that the Trust does the research itself or pays for the research.

Instead 'support' means the Trust agrees that the research is important and would allow researchers to apply for funding from other organisations if that application aligns with the Trust's strategic research objectives and complies with the strict ethical, legal, and welfare requirements outlined in the Policy on the Use of Small Animals in Research. For clarity this research has not, does not and would not take place on Trust premises.

Mae Ymddiriedolaeth GIG Prifysgol Felindre yn hapus i dderbyn gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg neu'r Saesneg.
Velindre University NHS Trust is happy to receive communication in Welsh or English.

2) Do you occasionally support or participate in projects/studies which involve the use of animals undertaken by the Cardiff ECMC initiative?

The Cardiff Experimental Cancer Medicines Centre (ECMC) is a group that works to find better treatments for cancer. The Trust collaborates on research efforts of the Cardiff ECMC so long as the projects/studies focus on the development of new cancer treatments and follow ethical and legal standards.

If any of the research supported by ECMC has involved animals in earlier pre-clinical trial research, this will have been carried out by external organisations independent of the Trust. The Trust's role in ECMC collaborations is limited to clinical research involving human participants.

3) Do you occasionally support or participate in projects/studies which involve the use of animals conducted by the Drug Discovery Institute of Cardiff University?

The Cardiff University Drug Discovery Institute helps create new medicines. The Trust does not work on any animal research that they conduct.

However, if a medicine they develop becomes a treatment for cancer, the Trust may help test the medicine in human clinical trials. It is possible that the medicine was part of animal research in earlier pre-clinical trial research – but that research will have been carried out or funded by external organisations independent of the Trust.

I trust this answers your request for information, however, should you not be satisfied with the information supplied or the process of supplying it, you have a right to complain and request a review. Please note that you must submit a request for a review within 40 days of the date of this letter.

You should forward your complaint to:

Mr Ian Bevan via FOI.VUNHST@wales.nhs.uk
Head of Information Governance
Velindre University NHS Trust
2, Charnwood Court
Heol Billingsley
Parc Nantgarw
Cardiff
CF15 7QZ

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Pencadlys Ymddiriedolaeth GIG Prifysgol Felindre
Velindre University NHS Trust Headquarters
2 Cwrt Charnwood
Heol Billingsley
Parc Nantgarw
Caerdydd/Cardiff
CF15 7QZ
Ffôn/Phone : (029) 20196161
<https://velindre.nhs.wales>

Should you wish to take your complaint further, if you are still unhappy with the decision after review, you can contact the:

Information Commissioner's Office - Wales
2nd Floor
Churchill House
Churchill Way
Cardiff
CF10 2HH
Telephone: 0330 414 6421
email: wales@ico.org.uk

Yours sincerely

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Interim Director of Corporate Governance
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2 Charnwood Court
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CF15 7QZ

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