

Concordat on Openness on Animal Research in the UK Annual Report 2022

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Foreword

As we near the end of 2022, it feels as if the world is finally shaking off the worst consequences of COVID and returning to something like normal. The human connection is back and face-to-face engagement, so important for Concordat signatories, is a reality once again. But we know things will never quite be the same. Some changes are here to stay, and the next few months may reveal what they are going to be and what this will mean for the future of animal research openness.

This report covers the period from mid-2021 until May 2022. It begins in the middle of the COVID turmoil when all our lives were severely disrupted, with many staff furloughed or working from home and others designated key workers keeping the animal facilities going in the most difficult conditions. So it is remarkable to see how the signatories to the Concordat on Openness on Animal Research in the UK have continued to achieve such excellent results by expanding their commitment to openness in the face of the COVID storm and in consequence, I believe, continuing to improve animal welfare.

We have seen new webpages, virtual tours, images and video, all of which make research more accessible to the public. Organisations have become bolder with their social media communications, reaching more people through these important channels. The Concordat has pioneered change reaching beyond our shores, and led the development of similar codes of practice in other countries.

But it is not all plain sailing. There has been a rise in activism and misinformation over the same period, emphasising the need for openness. We live in an age of unparalleled information exchange where myths and lies can flourish if they are not met with vigorous opposition, and with the danger that activists will feel emboldened to return to aggressive tactics that have not been seen in over a decade.

Happily, the tools used to spread distrust can also help to counter it, and work by Concordat signatories, such as that evidenced in this report, shows just how adept many in our sector have become at using them. When we do it right, openness is a significant factor in encouraging trust, proper scrutiny, and greater inclusivity, all important aspects of the healthy research culture that our country depends on.

So, despite many challenges, it is clear that research organisations are meeting them, providing the public with the information they need to make up their own minds about the use of animals in science. Concordat signatories should be, as I am, enormously proud of everything that has been achieved in these challenging times, and looking forward to the successes still to come.

Geoff Watts

Chair of the Steering Group Concordat on Openness on Animal Research in the UK

Executive summary

About this report

The information reported here is from a survey that is sent annually to signatories and compiled in May each year. The report fulfils the fourth commitment of the Concordat, and its completion is required for compliance with the commitments. All organisations that have been signed up to the



Concordat on Openness on Animal Research in the UK for a year or more are required to report on their progress towards greater openness. This year's report is based on survey data from 121 organisations: 100% of the organisations that, on 14 May 2022, met the reporting requirement for the Concordat, because they had been signatories for one year or more. The information provided is self-reported through the survey and no formal audit or checks are made to verify the information, with the exception of that pertaining to organisations' websites, which is reviewed by Understanding Animal Research.

The annual survey asks signatories to share actions they have taken towards meeting their Concordat commitments over the previous year, and so provides a snapshot of the sector's progress towards greater openness on its use of animals in research. This particular report covers activities that took place during the period May 2021 – May 2022. During the first part of this period (May – November 2021) the COVID-19 pandemic still dominated lives and organisational practices. Many staff were still working from home, while engagement and teaching largely took place online.

Given the considerable restrictions on communications and on scheduled events during 2021, the activities described here do not reflect business as usual, and can be viewed as anomalous. During 2022 we have seen a gradual return to normal working practices across the UK, but many activities are still not what they were pre-pandemic.

As in previous years, this report includes case studies that illustrate the innovation and impact of the changes made by Concordat signatory institutions.



The Concordat on Openness

The Concordat on Openness on Animal Research in the UK was launched in May 2014. Developed by the life-sciences sector over 18 months, it brings organisations involved in the use of animals for scientific research together to support openness with the public.

Concordat signatories sign up to four commitments:

- 1. We will be clear about when, how and why we use animals in research
- 2. We will enhance our communications with the media and public
- 3. We will be proactive in providing opportunities for the public to learn about animal research
- 4. We will report annually on our experiences and share practices

Following a review of the Concordat in 2017, signatories have noted the following impacts of the Concordat on the life-sciences research sector:

- Better public access to information about animals in research, directly from those who
 do the research
- A greater understanding and appreciation of the role of animal care staff, both in and outside the sector
- Increased profile of animal facilities within their establishments, leading to greater investment and better animal welfare
- Better access to see inside animal facilities (for those interested in this work)
- Fewer reactive communications on the use of animals in research, due to more information proactively placed in the public domain

There is an expectation that the culture change initiated by the Concordat will lead to gradually widening impacts as information about the rationale for animal research becomes increasingly accessible and understood. During the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020 and 2021, the need for high-quality public information about biomedical research, including



research on animals, was particularly necessary, and improved access to this information has, perhaps, been even more impactful for people beyond the life-sciences sector than it was previously.

During 2021 we witnessed widespread and vocal opposition to biomedical science across the world, linked in part to COVID-19. Activism and direct-action movements have grown in strength and have developed sophisticated misinformation campaigns, starting with those focussed on COVID-19 but not limited to that area. The challenge to research culture and research communications has spread to other areas and has given rise to loud voices which polarise discussions about the need for animal research so that, despite openness, organisations are seeing increasing protest from organised campaign groups. These protests have continued into 2022.

During 2021, UKRI and the Wellcome Trust carried out an independent review of all the research Concordats, to identify learning, areas of commonality and outcomes from this approach. Phase 1 of this review is now complete and a report has been produced which highlights the benefits of research Concordats for academic research in focussing institutions on key issues that are easily disregarded, and on promoting inclusivity and support in usually challenging areas. Phase 2 of this initiative, which is looking at how the different Concordats might align to reduce the administrative burden for institutions while supporting the benefits, is currently underway.

Key areas that have proved challenging for signatories of the Concordat, and where a need for additional support has been noted, are:

- Accurate communication of harms done to animals in research remains a difficult topic for the research community, and although some organisations take steps to provide balanced information, others could provide more.
- While many organisations comply with the Concordat, only a few are leading and others should be encouraged to see the value in taking bolder steps.
- Non-academic organisations can find it challenging to work with the media to explain their research to public audiences and many establishments need more support to work with the press.
- The role played by non-research organisations within the Concordat should be clarified and steps taken to ensure that the administrative processes provide for and are appropriate to them.

In 2019, following consultation with Concordat signatories and the Steering Group, Leaders in Openness was created to recognise organisations that consistently achieve good practice and successfully embed openness in their work. It was agreed when this new standard was created that Leader in Openness status would be held by an organisation for three years, after which they would need to reapply.

In 2022 re-applications to become Leaders in Openness were received from:

- The Royal Veterinary College
- Newcastle University
- University of Manchester
- Agenda Life Sciences
- University of Leicester
- University of Cambridge
- University of Bath
- The Pirbright Institute
- Imperial College London
- Institute of Cancer Research
- The Babraham Institute
- The Francis Crick Institute



The reapplication process required applicants to show how they had developed their work towards openness on animal research between 2019 and 2021, in particular showing changes that related to aspects of their original (2019) application which were felt to need attention.

All the reapplications submitted in 2022 were successful in becoming Leaders in Openness 2022 – 2025.



Concordat signatories in 2022

The majority of Concordat signatories are organisations that carry out research on animals. In 2022, 121 signatories to the Concordat on Openness qualified to complete the annual return, of which two thirds (80) are research organisations while one third (41) do not carry out their own research, but fund or otherwise directly support researchers. These supporting organisations include research charities, trade bodies and learned societies.

Progress towards Concordat commitments

Concordat signatories are required to be clear about how, when and why they use animals in research, and the Concordat signatories have substantially increased the amount and the depth of information about animal research in the public domain. In the past, images from inside research facilities were a rarity, but now signatory organisations increasingly use video, virtual tours and case studies to show what life is like for their animals. Sixteen larger research organisations now have virtual tours of their facilities available for public engagement purposes.

During 2020 and 2021 all work, regardless of sector, was overshadowed by the COVID-19 pandemic, and life-sciences research was no exception. Many signatories saw their animal facilities restricted, activities shut down and communications teams furloughed. The expected return to normal in 2021 was slow to arrive, with the UK still in lockdown due to the COVID-19 virus when the current reporting year began in May 2021. Although the life-sciences sector has adapted to the new situation, this environment has inevitably restricted resources and changed the landscape of research.

Despite the many restrictions brought about by the pandemic, by May 2022 most signatories had begun to run face-to-face engagement activities once more, although some of the changes brought about by the pandemic are enduring, particularly with regard to online engagement. Many Concordat signatories redeveloped their webpages during the pandemic period, adding information and images that explain their research more clearly. The standard of website content is now extremely high, the majority of signatories going well beyond the minimum requirement of a simple statement. Many include images of research animals and details about the numbers of animals used or proportion of projects funded that involve animals. Online activities, including social media, have been embraced by signatories in a way that could not have been anticipated prior to the pandemic. Previously, many organisations were nervous about the risks of social media, and the speed at which information is exchanged. This changed during the pandemic, when traditional means of engaging the public with research were restricted and many organisations increased their social media output, recognising it as a valuable tool for engagement. During 2022 we have seen a gradual and enthusiastic return to face-to-face engagement activities, as well as printed sources of information, but we expect social media activities to play an ever-greater role in organisational communications in the coming years.

While all Concordat signatories are required to provide a public-facing policy statement to show clearly why they support the use of animals in research, the number of organisations which provide more extensive information increases every year. The websites of 79% (63) of research organisation signatories now share the numbers and species of animals that are used in their research.

Charities are increasingly open about the research they fund with ten signatory charities providing information about the proportion of funded research that relates to animal work. This number has not changed since last year but has grown since the Concordat was launched. It is an important figure to provide, helping charity supporters to make more informed choices about how their donations are used and to recognise the value of animals in biomedical research.

Commercial organisations have limitations around information sharing related to their commercial interests and research methods. They may be unable to share information about, for example, the numbers of animals they use in a year. However, these organisations often excel in their application of the 3Rs and invest heavily in animal welfare practices. Commercial signatories to the Concordat have developed ways to overcome their limitations and provide more accessible information to the public. While numbers of animals often cannot be reported, it



is now accepted practice for commercial organisations to present information about the types of species used and the proportion of studies they are used for on their public-facing websites.

In previous years signatories have seen staff attitudes and fear of activism as significant barriers to openness despite the lack of violent activism around animal research in the UK. One impact of the pandemic has been to increase the perceived relevance of biomedical and health research for the public, and to draw public attention to biomedical research. However, the trend of increasing activism and campaigns to stop animal research which began in 2021 has continued into 2022.

When the Concordat was launched, partnership working was a key concern for signatories, and this concern is recognised in the reporting process, but over the years this concern has reduced for many signatory organisations. Within the academic sector many organisations find that their partners are, themselves, signatories to the Concordat on Openness, while government and charity sectors report that partnerships have provided them with opportunities to explain the importance of openness about animal research and to highlight their position. Commercial and funding organisations which rely on international partnerships find it more challenging to balance their commitments to the Concordat with sensitivity towards the expectations and working policies of their partners. Some commercial organisations are also restricted by confidentiality agreements. These organisations have found formal policies, processes and guidance documents helpful in communicating their Concordat commitments to partners, allowing them to be sensitive to the needs of both parties while encouraging openness when possible.

Providing balanced information that shows the harms as well as the benefits of animal research is an important aspect of the Concordat that ensures its credibility. Concordat signatories are increasingly showing the reality of animals undergoing procedures, such as mice with tumours and animals with headposts, moving away from downplaying the less palatable aspects of research that had been common in previous communications.



Although we still see a tendency to minimise the more challenging aspects of research, it is increasingly straightforward for those with genuine interest to access balanced information which allows public consideration and scrutiny of animal research. Images, videos and virtual tours from inside animal facilities help to provide this information to the public, and many organisations now talk expressly about how they use the 3Rs to limit harms and give details of the actual severities of procedures undergone by their animals.

Providing the media with access to high quality information about the use of animals in research that they can use to communicate science effectively has been an aim of the Concordat since its outset. Concordat signatories are encouraged to develop policies and processes to support their provision of information to the media, and to ensure that key people in their organisations understand why this is important. This year, 13 signatories reported that they had a formal media policy in place, while a further 59 followed informal procedures. Fifty signatories reported that they had provided staff with training to help them talk to the media about work involving animals.

Concordat signatories are recommended to follow good publication standards, such as the ARRIVE guidelines or equivalent. These guidelines are endorsed and actively supported by 80 signatories (including research organisations, learned societies with publications, and funders) and 46 organisations stated that they also use the PREPARE guidelines to underpin ARRIVE. Nineteen research organisations have developed specific practices for ensuring that the guidelines are followed by researchers and several commercial organisations employ their own standards based on ARRIVE, which are required for all published work. ARRIVE is also relevant to the community of learned societies, a number of which are academic publishers. There is a growing tendency to require that manuscripts submitted to learned societies meet a minimum of the top ten ARRIVE requirements.

Management of the Concordat

Understanding Animal Research (UAR) actively manages the Concordat and asks for feedback from signatories on the support they have been given over the year.

Most (96%) Concordat signatories agreed or somewhat agreed that they understand the Concordat commitments and the support available to help fulfil them, while 97% of signatories saw the Concordat as an important step forward for biomedical research. 15% (18) of signatories felt the Concordat would not lead to real changes in their organisations – an increase of seven signatories since 2021. Six organisations expressed concerns about their ability to meet Concordat commitments.

Most (81%) signatories found the Concordat communications helpful. The newsletter and stand-alone website were seen as particularly useful, providing clear examples that others could follow. Several organisations now felt that an additional visit or onsite presentation would be helpful to better inform new staff about the Concordat and how it works.

Since the end of the COVID-19 lockdowns UAR has received many requests for site visits, presentations and training to support staff in research and other key roles who are new to the Concordat. UAR is working hard to support understanding of the Concordat on Openness commitments, and the best means of achieving them.



Concordat on Openness on Animal Research in the UK

 $\textbf{Commitment 1} \quad \text{We will be clear about when, how and why we use animals in research}$

Commitment 2 We will enhance our communications with the media and the public

Commitment 3 We will be proactive in providing opportunities for the public to learn about animal research

NUMBER OF SIGNATORIES

2014

2015

2016

2017

2018

2019

2020

2021

2022

72

85

97

113

117

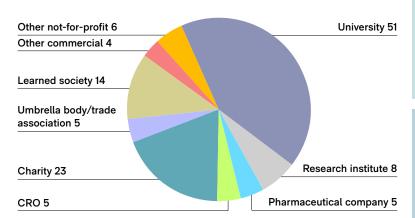
121

121

122

121

May 2021 - May 2022 Concordat signatories in 2022 n=121



Organisations that carry out research

Organisations that provide support for animal research

14 Leaders in Openness

2020 - 2023 / 2021 - 2024 / 2022 - 2025

AGENDA LIFE SCIENCES

THE BABRAHAM INSTITUTE

THE FRANCIS CRICK INSTITUTE

IMPERIAL COLLEGE LONDON

THE INSTITUTE OF CANCER RESEARCH

NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY

THE PIRBRIGHT INSTITUTE

ROYAL VETERINARY COLLEGE

UNIVERSITY OF BATH

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER

UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER

UNIVERSITY OF READING

Engaging with the media

55

signatories discussed animal research in a media release 45

signatories made comments to the media about animal research 8

signatories provided media access to animal facilities

Engaging with the public

61

signatories engaged with the local community about animal research 38

signatories provided visitors from outside their organisation access to animal facilities 37

signatories engaged with schools about animal research



Concordat on Openness on Animal Research in the UK launched in 2014

TRANSPARENCY AGREEMENTS IN:

Spain launched in 2016 Portugal launched in 2018 Belgium launched in 2019 France launched in 2021 Germany launched in 2021 New Zealand launched in 2021 Netherlands launched in 2021 Switzerland launched in 2021



Engaging with non-research staff

signatories give talks and presentations about the use of animals in research

signatories produce internal newsletters and publications that mention animal research

signatories offer opportunities for non-research staff to visit animal facilities

signatories explicitly mention animal research during the recruitment and induction process

signatories provide staff with training to engage confidently with the public on the issues around animal research

signatories offer an open AWERB invitation or include student representatives on the AWERB

Communicating animal research online

signatories have images of animal facilities, research animals, or animals undergoing procedures on their website

signatories provide details on the number and species of animals used at their institution

signatories mentioned animal research on social media

signatories provide details on actual severity of animal procedures on their website

signatories have

video footage of animal facilities, research animals, or animals undergoing procedures on their website

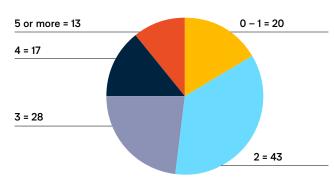
signatories provide details on the proportion of their

funded research

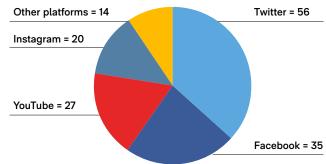
that relates to

animal work

Clicks to reach animal research position statement from signatory's homepage



Signatories using social media to talk about animal research



Introduction

The Concordat on Openness on Animal Research in the UK is a voluntary code of practice which sits alongside legislation, providing a structured framework and guidance for the research sector to develop more transparent communications about its use of animals in research. It was the first agreement of its type and has subsequently given rise to similar agreements and practices in eight countries, while several other countries have similar agreements in development.'

This report covers the eighth year of activity by signatories towards meeting its four commitments, following the Concordat's launch in May 2014:

- We will be clear about when, how and why we use animals in research
- We will enhance our communications with the media and public
- We will be proactive in providing opportunities for the public to learn about animal research
- We will report annually on our experiences and share practices

These commitments and supporting guidance were developed by the UK life-sciences sector over an 18-month period and were directly informed by a deliberative public process.² Public interest in how and why animals are used in scientific research, and public expectations of the information that should be provided about this issue, lie at the heart of the Concordat's aims and the framework for communication that it offers. The four commitments are still considered by the signatories and the Steering Group to be appropriate and have remained the same throughout the lifetime of the Concordat, although guidance and practices around the Concordat have been continually updated to reflect changing circumstances and practices.

To sign the Concordat, organisations must either employ staff or support members who carry out animal research, or directly support organisations that use animals in research, for example through funding. In 2022 the Concordat was updated to allow organisations that breed animals for research in the UK to become signatories. As well as academic and commercial research organisations, Concordat signatories include learned societies, research funding bodies and others who are concerned with the accessibility of public-domain information about their animal research.

The Concordat on Openness on Animal Research in the UK is actively managed by UAR and overseen by an independent Steering Group which meets annually. Signatories commit to upholding the four commitments and to ensuring that their rationale for using animals in research is in the public domain.

¹ www.eara.eu/transparency-agreements

http://concordatopenness.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/openness-in-animal-r.pdf



Concordat aims

- 1. Support confidence and trust in the life-sciences sector
- 2. Build open dialogue with the public on the reality of the use of animals in research
- 3. Foster greater openness and practical steps that will bring about transparency around the use of animals in research

Concordat objectives (2017 - 2022)

- 1. Improve public access to information about what happens to research animals and why
- 2. Raise the expectation of openness and transparency around the use of animals in research for research organisations, their funders and supporters
- 3. Recognise and champion best practice in openness
- 4. Provide better quality and more accurate information to the media
- 5. Alert the research community to the risks of secrecy, and provide support for greater transparency, highlighting its benefits for science, animal welfare and communications
- 6. Gain buy-in for greater openness among practitioners and stakeholders in the animal research sector, from both the top-down and the bottom-up

Culture change supported by the Concordat to date

In 2018 the Concordat was assessed for impacts, and although it was too early to fully determine changes, signatories felt, alongside other initiatives, the Concordat had led to impacts on:

- Public access to information about animals in research directly from those who do the research
- A greater understanding and appreciation of the role of animal care staff, both in and outside the sector
- Increased profile of animal facilities within their establishments, leading to greater investment and better animal welfare
- Better access to see inside animal facilities (for those interested in this work)
- Fewer reactive communications on the use of animals in research, due to more information proactively available in the public domain



Signatories agreed many impacts had not, so far, gone beyond the life-sciences sector itself.

In 2021, UKRI and the Wellcome Trust initiated an independent review of 12 UK research Concordats and the role they play in the UK academic sector. All 12 require research organisations to implement a policy, report on compliance and/or develop an action plan to address an issue relevant to research. It found that signing the Concordat on Openness on Animal Research was seen as important, in that it was a key signal to the research sector overall, particularly for research-intensive higher education institutions.

Key benefits of the Concordats:

- They focus the attention of senior leaders on significant issues of relevance to the research sector.
- They inform organisational strategy and policies to support high-quality research.
- They provide good practice and shared learning, helping to break down silos and encourage collaboration.
- They provide a mandate for action on important issues.

The review found that research concordats in general, and the Concordat on Openness in particular, improved staff morale and the culture of inclusivity in organisations where they had been adopted. A case study of the Concordat on Openness is cited in the report.³

Minimum compliance requirements

To meet the minimum requirements of the Concordat on Openness on Animal Research, all signatory organisations must provide a copy of their logo to be displayed on the Concordat As an example, one of our case study interviews was with an independent research organisation that had a long history of animal research but, until they became a signatory to the Concordat on Openness on Animal Research, had rarely shared details of the work undertaken. Researchers were even secretive with their own families and friends about their work. The concordat was seen to provide a flexible framework and the impetus to adopt a different approach to communicating about the research carried out with animals. With support from leadership, this resulted in putting additional information on their website and hosting a public engagement event, both of which benefited staff as well as the organisation itself. It raised awareness of which other organisations were working with animals, enabling networking and information sharing.

"We had some technicians saying, 'I've never been able to talk to my family about what I do as a job. But I've brought them to this event. And we're talking about it now at home.' They didn't feel that they were in a job where they don't talk about it; in some ways that they were stigmatised. But now they could. They felt proud about what they were doing, how they were supporting science."

Strategic influencer, Research Institute

website, along with a policy statement outlining their position regarding the use of animals in scientific research. This statement should be unique to the organisation, based on the organisation structure, research interests and values. It should reflect the ethical position of the organisation regarding the use of animals. If the organisation supports or funds, rather than carries out, research on animals, the statement should transparently explain why this is the case. These statements should be easily accessible on the organisation website and clearly linked to from the Concordat on Openness website. The links must be working and are provided to UAR annually as part of the reporting process.

Signatories are required to provide an annual report on their progress and activities undertaken towards openness, and an annual survey is undertaken to support reporting (commitment 4). The Concordat on Openness on Animal Research annual report is created from the aggregate of data collected through the annual survey.

Signatories are also expected to make a commitment to improving internal structures and communications around their use of animals in research. The form of these structural changes will depend on the organisation, but all are expected to commit to a new approach to open communications that will form the basis of their future practices.

Further support and Leaders in Openness

Past reports have highlighted key areas for improvement that have proved challenging to signatories and where additional support in taking practical steps towards the Concordat commitments is needed.

³ Concordats and agreements: their role in supporting effective research culture and working environments



In particular, Concordat signatories have identified difficulties in:

- Providing clear and accurate information around harms done to animals
- Taking bold steps to provide open information in the face of potential disapproval
- Working with the media to reach public audiences (this particularly applies to non-academic organisations)
- Identifying a clear role for non-research organisations in moving the Concordat and openness forward

The Leaders in Openness initiative was introduced in 2019 to support and extend the Concordat, providing clearer direction and aims for sector leaders and change-makers around openness on animal research. Leaders in Openness are expected to address not only the four challenges given above, but the longer list of good practice recommendations given below. The ways that these organisations are actively embedding change are shared widely with the research sector, to provide leadership and stimulate similar practices elsewhere.

Because Concordat signatories come from very different organisations across the life-sciences sector, not all signatories will be able to achieve all of the listed recommendations. Concordat organisations are encouraged and supported to find ways that they can achieve more open practices, while remaining mindful of the limitations of their business and organisation structure.

Change following the COVID-19 pandemic

This report covers the period 2021 – 2022, during which many Concordat signatories faced challenges due to lockdowns, travel restrictions and rapid changes to working practices. While all sectors were severely affected by the pandemic, the academic sector, which accounts for the largest proportion of signatories to the Concordat on Openness, saw possibly the most dramatic and long-lasting changes.

Some animal facilities were stretched to capacity to meet an intense workload, while others were reduced to a minimum operation. The charity and education sectors saw great changes to their business models as public engagement moved online, the focus of media attention shifted, and students and volunteers no longer joined together in shared physical spaces.

As this period has drawn to a close it has taken some time to move back to the way we used to work. While changes to online engagement, particularly social media and remote workshops, are welcome because of the opportunities they provide for reach and inclusivity, many openness initiatives around media and public engagement have stopped or greatly changed over the past two years. Staff who had worked on technical issues around animal research have now moved on, and others who have taken their place now need to fully understand this area of work, including the importance of open communication.

Changes to funding and the direction of some signatories mean that three are leaving the Concordat, but we have also welcomed five new signatories during 2022.

The dramatic changes to working practices across every sector throughout 2020 and 2021 will have undoubted impact on this report. Signatories are reporting on a period from May 2021 to May 2022, when many organisations were dealing with unusual circumstances. Now that we are seeing a return to meetings and face-to-face events, we hope to see changes to communications and outreach realised once more, accompanied by the flexibility provided by improved online content.

Good-practice recommendations for signatory organisations, compiled from previous reports on the Concordat on Openness on Animal Research in the UK



Good practice about how, when and why animals are used in research

- Follow UAR/RSPCA guidance to provide more balanced information, acknowledging harms as well as benefits of animal research, including commenting critically on models that they use
- Develop communication resources to move sector-based discussions that review, critique and evaluate protocols using animals into the public domain
- ARRIVE Guidelines (or equivalent standard) are actively endorsed, and supported by a process that checks compliance
- Actively support information sharing between animal facility and communications staff through processes and organisational structures (such as communications representatives on AWERB)
- Ensure non-technical summaries of research projects clearly communicate their objectives, harms, benefits and 3Rs considerations to lay audiences, making these, or other research summaries available through the organisation's website



Openness with staff, students, members and supporters

- Mention animal research during staff recruitment, ideally at interviews for all staff
- Include an animal facility tour in the induction process for new staff
- Offer an animal facility tour to existing non-research staff⁴
- Provide seminars or publications on the ethics of using animals in research to students or members (where applicable)
- Hold AWERB sessions that are open to all staff
- Include a student representative position on the AWERB or ethics committee
- Offer work experience in the animal facility
- Recognise individuals who have made outstanding contributions to openness through internal awards



Partnerships and working with others

- Ensure recipients of grants, prizes or funding are made aware of their funders' commitments under the Concordat and the importance of openness about the use of animals in research
- Have a partnership or collaboration policy which outlines commitments and expectations under the Concordat when working with non-signatories

⁴ Possibly via another organisation (such as UAR)





Providing accessible information to the public

- Enquiries from the public about animal research are provided with direct responses wherever possible, with supporting resources available to answer common questions
- Reception and other frontline staff are trained to respond to enquiries about animal research
- Make a substantial amount of material about how, when and why animals are used in (their) scientific research openly available through their organisation's website
- Share the species and numbers (or proportions) of any animals used in their research
- Grant-awarding organisations share the proportion and value of grants awarded that fund animal research
- Encourage staff (including researchers where applicable) to undertake training for speaking with public audiences or media about the use of animals in research



Communicating through the media

- Where animals have been used in research, any media communications mention the species used
- Partnership agreements include expectations of how animal research should be communicated to the media (even where clients are a step removed)
- Have an access procedure for press looking to visit animal facilities
- Actively engage with (local or national) media requests to join panels or participate in interviews about animal research
- Provide media training for key spokespeople, supporting them to engage with the media on their organisation's use of animals in research



Supporting engagement with the use of animals in research

- Produce guidelines to support researchers and others in planning public engagement events around animal research
- Participate in programmes to allow interested members of the public to see inside animal facilities, including remote or virtual tours
- Participate in science festivals or other public engagement events
- Hold family or community days that staff can participate in and talk about their animal work

About this report

The first part of this report summarises the returns provided by Concordat signatories under the fourth commitment of the Concordat on Openness. It shows the activities and approaches undertaken and provides a picture of how communications have progressed under the Concordat and where there is still some distance to go.

The second part of this report provides a series of case studies to illustrate how leading Concordat signatories have met good practice recommendations and created excellent transparent communications around their use of animals in research.

Data collection methodology

This report is based on data collected from signatories through an electronic survey. The survey was distributed in April 2022 and was completed by all signatories within 12 weeks. Survey questions remained similar to previous years in order to show trends. Research and non-research organisations answered separate sets of survey questions, to support respondents in completing the survey.

Responses are provided by the named signatory contact, but most represent a co-ordinated response on behalf of the organisation, and it is usual for a committee such as the Animal Welfare Ethical Review Body (AWERB) to be involved in drafting the response.

Data were analysed using SmartSurvey's in-built survey analysis software and by manually theming and coding qualitative data.

In most cases the views and activities described in this report were volunteered by signatories and have not been externally assessed or audited. The exceptions to this are around points of compliance such as the structure of webpages and the placement of policy statements on institutional websites, which are checked and verified by UAR.

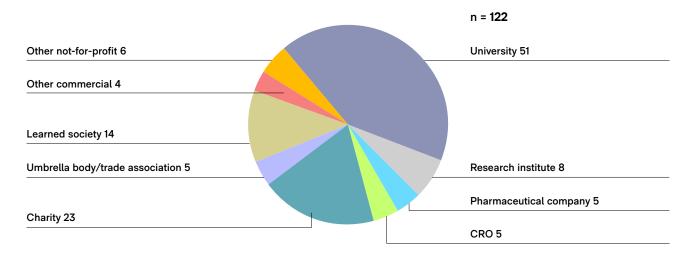
Organisations were not asked to provide responses to every question, and throughout this report respondent numbers are provided as absolute values, reflecting the changing number of total respondents for each question. As in previous reports, the names of organisations have been removed to allow organisations to report their experiences freely. Where organisations are quoted the type of organisation (charity, university, commercial, etc) is indicated to provide context.



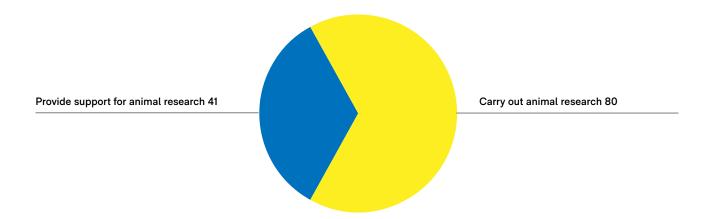
Concordat signatories in 2022

In May 2022 there were 121 signatories of the Concordat on Openness on Animal Research in the UK who met the requirements to complete the annual return, reporting on their progress.

Completion and return of the survey are conditions of the Concordat on Openness, and data was returned by all 121 eligible organisations in 2022.



Only organisations that undertake research on animals, commission or fund research on animals, or whose members or staff carry out research on animals, were eligible to sign the Concordat on Openness. This research is usually carried out in the UK.



Universities that use animals in their academic research make up over one third of signatories (40%). The majority (66%) of signatories have facilities that carry out research on animals, while organisations which commission or support such research make up the remaining (34%) signatories. This represents an increase of 5% in the proportion of Concordat signatories that carry out animal research over the 2021 report.

Part

Progress in openness on animal research in the UK

May 2021 – May 2022



Commitment 1

We will be clear about how, when and why we use animals in research

Despite the enormous change to all aspects of life during 2020 and 2021, the availability of public information about animal research has remained high. Initially the pandemic prompted immense focus on public health, which declined as it continued. The rapid changes in people's relationships with health, the healthcare sector and the science that underpins it created new opportunities and threats for everyone involved in animal research, and in scientific fields more generally.

"We have published non-technical summaries of all PPLs with primary and secondary availability [at our institute]. Additionally, labs describe type of research they do on their own lab page, some include information on use of animals in their research." – RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Initial changes brought by COVID-19 were due to disruption of working practices and changes in the ways that people used technology. But although many of those practical aspects have receded, people are back in their offices, and face-to-face events have begun again, society is forever changed by what happened in 2020 and 2021. During 2021, eight months of which inform this report, the world remained shut down. Organisations were limited in their ability to engage people though events or programmes that would usually run, and all educational activities were heavily disrupted.

But by 2022 many organisations, though disrupted, had found new ways of working. Many activities had moved online. Companies had invested in resources and staff had developed new skills that enabled them to work remotely.

The amount of information that Concordat signatories provide voluntarily increases every year. While, at a minimum, signatories should have a public-facing statement on their website, most see this only as a starting point and many go much further. As an example of this, 43 research signatories stated that they provided either non-technical summaries of research, or another form of 'case study example' of research their organisation carries out, or both on their websites. Others have plans to do this in the near future. For the non-research signatories, research summaries and case studies did not feature on many public-facing websites, but 25 organisations, including charities that fund medical research, do provide them.

Significantly, 63 (79%) research organisations that are signed up to the Concordat now share information about the numbers and types of animals used in their own research on their organisational websites, while 36 (45%) now share details of the severity of the procedures they carry out. Both these figures have increased since last year's report, and neither figure was available from any UK organisation prior to the launch of the Concordat on Openness.

Year on year we are seeing more organisations developing websites to share information about their animal work with interested members of the public through a wide range of content, all of which represents a great achievement for those involved. This has particularly been the case in 2021, when the focus on digital resources became much greater.



Commercial organisations have different drivers that can limit the information they are able to share publicly, but many now provide case studies to illustrate their animal work and use their websites to talk about the species they use. Some commercial research organisations are very large employers and are able to engage large numbers of people through internal communications initiatives.

Animal facility tours are becoming more common, and the ability to deliver these virtually has made them possible for facilities that have wet barriers, containment issues or security concerns. Virtual tours are neither an easy or a cheap option but have become valuable aids for teaching and recruitment as well as public engagement and have been developed by an increasing number of signatories. From the start of 2022 we have also begun to see a return to face-to-face public engagement programmes, complete with tours of animal facilities.

Signatories are now increasingly willing to share information with a range of audiences on social media, with Twitter being the most popular platform, used by almost half of signatories (46%). In the past two years we have seen novel social media initiatives from signatories such as social media take overs, vlogs and Instagram stories, that have been particularly successful in engaging younger and more diverse audiences. Many organisations also share information about their facilities, animal care and projects on YouTube. The intended audiences for these initiatives vary from the general public to the lifesciences sector and the availability of information is growing every year.

The primary barriers to openness that concern signatories have shifted but are familiar. A lack of ownership or interest from key people such as management, communications teams, and the complex structures of very large organisations were seen as significant barriers. In some organisations where the buy-in is strong, active campaigns from pressure groups caused considerable stress to staff and greatly limited their enthusiasm for openness. Some organisations noted that the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent reprioritisation of resources have limited what has been possible towards furthering their Concordat objectives.

Hearteningly, one signatory that had been the subject of a campaign against their research has now seen a reduction in the activity against them and so has been able to progress their Concordat commitments.

1.1 Harms and benefits

"We provide detailed information concerning how animals are used in research, we discuss the limitations and benefits of animal research, and we describe how we are committed to reducing, refining and replacing the use of animals in research, including through a number of lay-friendly case studies." – RESEARCH CHARITY

Openness means providing information that allows people to make up their own minds about the ethics of some trickier topics around animal research. It means accepting that research is carried out in the interests of society with a public mandate, and that people can expect access to sufficient information to make a fair judgement. Organisations are expected to provide balanced information that highlights the benefits of research, but also acknowledges harms inflicted on the animals.

Determining the right tone and balance of information can be difficult for organisations, who rightly aim to champion research that they are proud of. Added to which, communications teams may, themselves, be uneasy about the idea of animal research and feel uncomfortable discussing it.

For some communications teams, animal research can seem like a bad-news story that must be mitigated or down-played. Many signatories are concerned about any information that might show their research or institution in a negative light, preferring to mention only the positive aspects of their research, while others feel that mentioning harms may open the door for their work to be misrepresented or taken out of context. However, telling only one side of the story is misleading.

Time and again the public have told us the importance of having clear information about the animals' experience that gives them a picture of what the research entails. Encouragingly, most are extremely surprised at the quality and amount of information available to enable them to make up their own minds.

As a minimum, Concordat signatories should discuss their approach to the 3Rs on their websites, illustrating key aspects of their internal conversations about animal welfare. Organisations that fund, commission, or support research should have statements or websites that reflect the internal discussions of their ethics committees about the acceptability of different types of research and the circumstances under which different protocols are permitted. Best practice includes discussion of the 3Rs and highlighting the experience of the animals through case studies.

Increasingly, research organisations provide indicators of severity of procedures on their public-facing websites (36 (45%) research organisations do this) and show images of animals that have clearly been harmed undergoing a procedure, such as mice with visible tumours. A high proportion of research organisations (40) include summaries of the research undertaken on their websites, and organisations have suggested that they will expect a greater emphasis on harm—benefit in those articles as they are reviewed in the future, giving visitors a better idea of the ethics involved and the experience of the animals in each project. The number of organisations providing this type of information is increasing year on year, as research organisations develop a greater understanding of how balanced information can be provided.

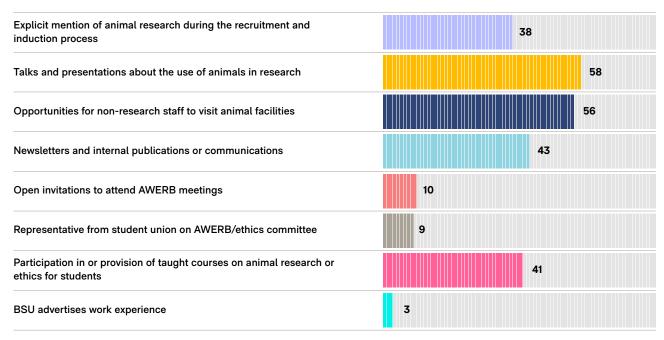
For commercial organisations, bound by extensive regulations around competition, intellectual property and commercial sensitivities, public discussion of harms and benefits can be limited. However, the contribution of these organisations to research-sector discussions on mitigating harms, improving experimental design and supporting better animal care is substantial. Internal and sector-facing communications about animal use, even within very large organisations, can be frank, honest and accessible, leading the way with initiatives such as open ethics committees that anyone can attend and pushing global standards of animal care.



1.2 Staff awareness

"Openness around our use of animals begins at the interview stage. At interview, every candidate applying for a job is advised that the Institute's scientific research involves the use of animals and the reasons behind this are explained. This is standard practice for all job roles regardless of whether the role is directly related or involved in animal work or not." – RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Do you make your use of animal research clear to researchers, staff or students, beyond those who work directly with animals, through any of the following (select all that apply)? n=80





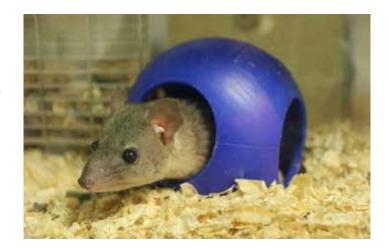
"We have been proactive in offering tours around the animal facility to colleagues such as those based in human resources (HR) or Marketing and Communications teams. Tours are also available to any other member of staff or external visitor." – UNIVERSITY

Under the Concordat, signatories that carry out research on animals (research signatories) are asked to ensure that all staff are aware that animal research is carried out by their organisation. In the past, staff whose role was not directly connected with the use of animals in research, such as those in administrative roles or other departments, had no knowledge of the animal work.

Since the Concordat was launched in 2014, signatories have developed many initiatives to raise the profile of the animal facility within their organisations, and it is considered by many to be a great success of the Concordat. Many signatories have excelled in this crucial area, which ensures that animal research is no longer a closely guarded secret. Increasingly, staff from research institutions understand that animal research is not something done elsewhere and by other people, but something that happens where they work and that they can understand the need for. If they are uncomfortable, they are now able to make it known and find out more, dispelling rumours about the research and improving transparency.

"We have regular video conferences for staff to watch and ask questions with researchers that use animals in their research." – RESEARCH CHARITY

It is now considered good practice for animal facilities to advertise positions openly, allow non-research staff to visit the facility and to include interview questions highlighting that the organisation carries out animal research as part of the recruitment process for all staff regardless of their role. For some organisations recruitment processes are more structured, ensuring that

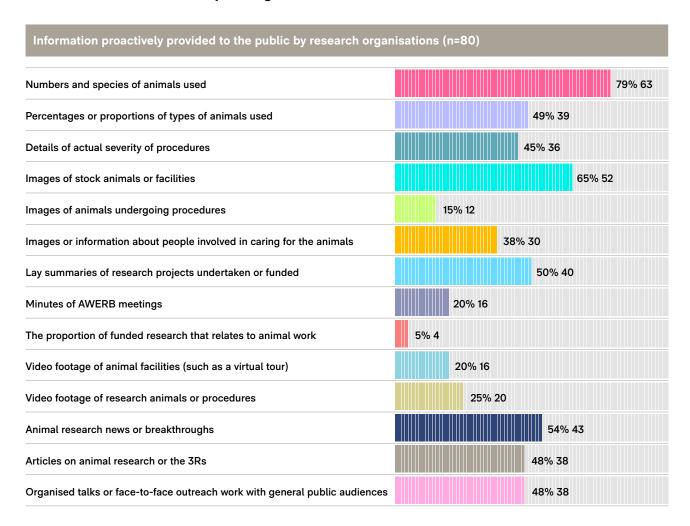


new starters understand how animal research fits into the structure and ethics of the organisation.

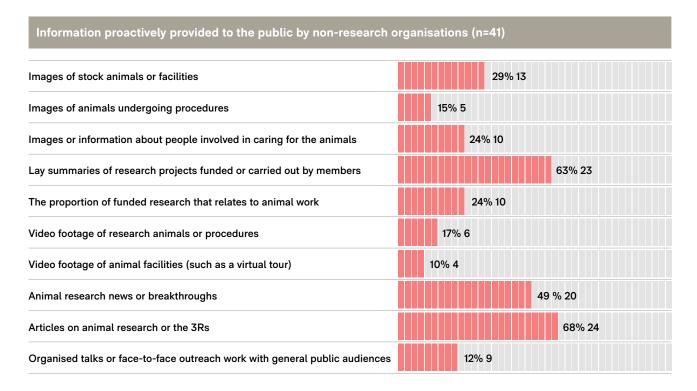
Virtual tours are now used extensively, not only to provide engagement to those outside an organisation, but also to allow non-research staff to see for themselves the work carried out inside the animal facility. Opportunities for non-research staff to visit the animal facilities are offered by most (75%) research signatories, a figure which was higher prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. Fortunately, virtual tours have become an excellent way to provide a wide range of staff with insight into what it is like inside an animal facility.



1.3 Explaining involvement with the use of animals in research



"Our quarterly publication is now distributed to members electronically and as a result can be shared widely with non-members, including the public. [Our] Twitter feed is shared widely and has raised our profile and openness." — **LEARNED SOCIETY**



A number of research organisations described how they share photos and videos of their animals and facilities with third parties, including the press and other organisations' websites. For business reasons around competitiveness and confidentiality, many commercial organisations feel unable to share absolute numbers of animals used, and instead describe the species and proportions of animals used. This year, however, some commercial organisations have shared absolute numbers openly and in the context of their research.

Both research and non-research organisations have continued to develop the proactive information they provide to the public, particularly through social media channels. This is a legacy of the pandemic which seems to have created lasting change and is engaging a new generation of younger people. The number of research organisations carrying out organised talks and outreach events is greatly increased from 2021, as events begin to return to normal, though among non-research organisations the figure remained similar between 2021 and 2022.

Some of the non-research organisations are still unclear how they can play a role in communicating openly with the public, since they do not carry out research themselves, though this thinking is slowly changing as societies and funders give greater consideration to the importance of their role in developing the public understanding of research. While many see animal research as only a small part of their work it remains important that their members and stakeholders understand why it is nonetheless essential. As practices change and become more accepted, non-research organisations have a key role to play in communicating the importance of openness to individuals.



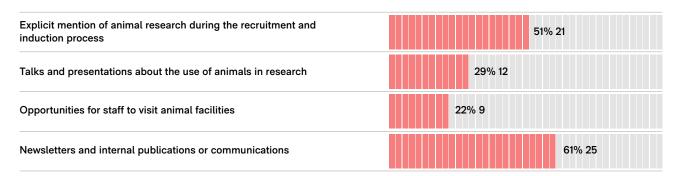
Several (5) non-research organisations felt that they were unable to provide summaries of research taking place, as they do not, themselves, do research. Other organisations, however, partnered with signatories to share information about the types of research they support as a way of fulfilling openness commitments.

Seven research organisations reported that they were in the process of updating the way that research projects are included on their websites, with some stating that guidance on this would be helpful. Some government signatories commented that summaries have proved difficult to achieve but they hope to have them available soon.

Non-research signatories are asked to make their use of or support for using animals in research clear to staff, grant holders and supporters: those who are considered internal to the organisation's interests. For over half (51%) of non-research signatories, animal research was explicitly mentioned during their recruitment processes, so that their staff and stakeholders engaged with the process, and one fifth (22%) of these organisations provided their staff with opportunities to visit animal facilities and learn about the research carried out first hand

Very small organisations should consider that this commitment could be applied to the appointment of accountants, auditors, insurance companies and web designers as well as employees. The aim is to ensure that those individuals who work with Concordat signatories understand their connection to animal research.

Do you make your support of animal research clear to staff, grant holders or supporters through any of the following? (non-research signatories n=41)



1.4 Partnership working

"We work alongside other similar associations as well as non-laboratory/research associations to raise awareness of what we do and what the industry is about" – PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION

Have you implemented any of the fol	llowing practices when v	vorking in partnership?
A policy in place outlining requirements around openness on animal research when working in partnership	Research sigs (80)	10
	Non-research sigs (41)	8
Guidance for staff, members or grant holders to encourage openness when working in partnership	Research sigs (80)	n
	Non-research sigs (41)	11
Participation or delivery of meetings and events to facilitate partnerships and openness around animal research	Research sigs (80)	21
	Non-research sigs (41)	11





For the vast majority of organisations, working in partnership with others is seen as a benefit and an opportunity to share practices that encourage openness rather than a barrier. Many organisations tell us that all their partners are Concordat signatories, and that if they were not, sign-up would be expected.

For a small number of organisations there are sensitivities around partnerships where cultures and values may be very different from one another. In particular, organisations involved with overseas partnerships must ensure that they take due account of a range of concerns while upholding their commitments. These organisations may find that adopting policies around partnership working can be helpful in managing expectations and ensuring clarity.

Commercial partnerships can present greater difficulties due to commercial and security interests and confidentiality clauses associated with particular pieces of work. As commercial research organisations are not able to communicate about specific pieces of work in the same way that others are able to, there are additional limitations on their communications. While, for example, they may provide images of animals on a study to a third-party website, they would not be able to provide details of particular trials or the partners they work with.





Commitment 2

We will enhance our communications with the media and the public

2.1 Position statements on animal research

All Concordat signatories are required to have a public-facing position or policy statement online that clearly indicates the organisation's rationale, including their ethical position, for supporting the use of animals in research.

The 121 signatories to the Concordat on 14 May 2022 all have public-facing position statements online, which are linked to from the Concordat website. Each year signatories provide UAR with a URL to their statement so that the Concordat website, which connects signatories to their statements, can be maintained. UAR periodically checks statements throughout the year to make sure they are active, and that the Concordat website is up to date.

Signatories are strongly encouraged to see these position statements as a minimum requirement of openness, and to create websites with full and extensive information about the animal research they carry out, fund, or support. An ambition of the Concordat has always been to take the information which is held in filing systems and on intranets, and to make it publicly available.

The launch of the Concordat led to an increasing amount of information available online, including detailed information about research practices and the animals kept in animal facilities. Many websites now exceed the minimum requirements and set a new standard for best practice in openness. These websites include information on numbers and species of animals used, proportions of grants or funded research involving animals, examples of research projects in lay language, information on the 3Rs and animal welfare, videos, images, and details of harms experienced by the animals such as severity statistics. More organisations are now using digital content such as videos, virtual tours and infographics to provide in-depth and accessible information.

So that position statements and webpages detailing animal research are accessible to everyone and not just those actively seeking the specific information they hold, it is important that these pages can be reached from website Homepages, without searching and with few clicks. The modal number of clicks to information about animal research from the Homepage is two and the majority (79%) of signatory organisations have information that can be located within three clicks.

A full list of URLs for all website animal research policy statements is provided in the appendix.

"During the pandemic access to the [animal facility] was limited to our own staff as a safety precaution and contingency measure, therefore we were limited in what we could offer to media during that time." – RESEARCH INSTITUTE

2.2 Inclusion of animal research in communications and media releases

"The University Press Office advises researchers directly on referencing their use of animals in research when working with them to develop press releases and other external communications." – UNIVERSITY

"We have a communications group which is responsible for the development of [our] communication strategy, member engagement and stakeholder liaison." – TRADE ASSOCIATION

Inclusion of animal species in press releases (where relevant to the research) is now common practice, with 90 signatories reporting that this is expected in their organisations.

A formal policy that requires animal research to be proactively included in media releases and media enquiries is used by 13 signatories, and a further 59 signatories reported that, while they don't have a formal policy in place, an informal process is recommended and followed. Nine signatories reported that they have plans to introduce a policy around processes for media engagement. Where media policies are used by organisations, they describe what information should be included in press releases, how to handle media enquiries, how pictures of research animals should be used, and how lab visits should be conducted.

The adoption of a formal policy is recommended good practice for Concordat signatories as it helps ensure that expectations around openness are fully understood and saves time when handling media enquiries.

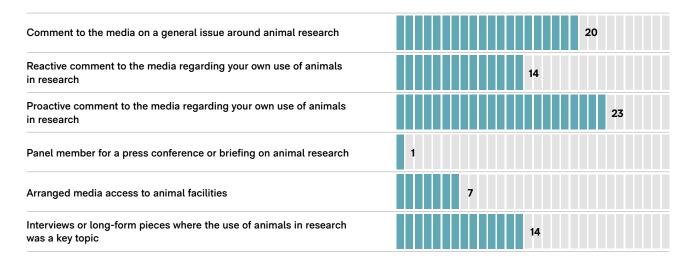
Signatories have reported many ways of engaging with the media about their involvement with animal research, including commenting to the media on a general issue around animal research (20), providing reactive comment to the media (14), providing proactive comments to the media (23), providing panel members for press conferences or briefings (1), arranging media access to animal facilities (7) and providing interviews or long-form pieces where the use of animals in research was a key topic (14). These numbers are reduced from previous years, as COVID-19 restrictions and other issues that have dominated the news have meant there were limited opportunities to provide information on animal research to the media.

Many Concordat signatories have capable press offices which now include stories and comments about animals in science as a standard practice. In 2020 and 2021 many large press offices shifted focus completely to deal with expert enquiries related to COVID-19 research, but this is now beginning to change. Some member organisations and learned societies of the Concordat do not monitor their members' communications with the media and so are unable to comment on this aspect of the Concordat.

Signatories are recommended to include information about the animal research they carry out, fund, or support in other forms of communication such as annual reports and official documents, public-facing leaflets and brochures, and magazines and posters. Animal research details are now included in annual reports by 34 signatories (increasing year on year since 2019), while 18 signatories reported that they communicate about animal research in leaflets and brochures (from 27 pre-pandemic as reported in 2020, and nine in 2021). Signatories have also included animal research in annual reviews, public newsletters, policy papers and on social media.



Have your organisation, researchers or staff provided any of the following in the last year? (research organisations n=80)



Have your organisation, researchers or staff provided any of the following in the last year? (non-research organisations n=41)

Comment to the media on a general issue around animal research			5		
Reactive comment to the media regarding your own use of animals in research				6	
Proactive comment to the media regarding your own use of animals in research		3			
Panel member for a press conference or briefing on animal research		3			
Arranged media access to animal facilities	1				
Interviews or long-form pieces where the use of animals in research was a key topic	1				

Concordat signatories come from a wide range of organisations, and not all are public facing or regularly involved with the press. This affects the nature of their work on openness as they are more likely to engage in proactive communications through, for example, expert panels and briefing sessions. For example, commercial organisations and smaller, not-for-profit organisations rarely issue media releases about their animal work but have established communication channels with stakeholders and policy makers where they often lead on communications around the 3Rs and publication standards.

2.3 & 2.4 Support for media and public engagement on animal research

"We have held media training sessions for staff who might engage with media on the subject of animal research that included mock interviews with video feedback. Any member of staff who requests training receives this and is also actively guided and supported by our Marketing & Communications team." – UNIVERSITY

Signatories are continuing to support the development of media-trained champions who can respond to stories about the use of animals in research on behalf of their organisation. UAR provides media training to its member organisations (although it was not possible to deliver this hands-on training during 2020 and 2021), and other signatories use alternative providers or provide in-house media training. Fifty signatories reported that they provide media training for staff and/or members who wish to engage with the media on animal research, which is lower than pre-pandemic levels and indicates that there is still less support for communications following the pandemic.

Many of the non-research signatories provide this as general media training rather than providing specific training around animal research. Some organisations, particularly learned societies, indicated that they are unlikely to work directly with media, and as such there are few reasons to provide specific training or skills development. During 2020 and 2021 there were very few opportunities for either media engagement or media training, with few non-COVID related animal-research stories covered, although this is now beginning to change.

In addition to media training, guidance or support to help staff or students deliver public engagement events about the use of animal research is recommended. Signatories use a mixture of in-house communications support, coaching by staff with communications experience and UAR's public engagement training. These training programmes were limited during 2020, but began to run again during 2021, with an emphasis on online engagement. In 2022 we have seen a return to in-person events, but with some online training still being offered to increase accessibility.

Some non-research organisations found Commitment 2 difficult to meet, as without facilities or research of their own they are less able to find opportunities to make animal research accessible to the public. They are, however, able to support their members to communicate proactively on animal research.

"As a Learned Society there are limits to what we can do to meet this commitment as we do not ourselves carry out research or have facilities to invite media or public to visit. We encourage our members to fulfil this commitment further through their own establishment." – LEARNED SOCIETY





2.5 & 2.6 Good practice in publication guidelines

"The ARRIVE and PREPARE guidelines are promoted through events for personal licence holders and events such as the local modular for anyone who is involved in animal research. We completed an audit of compliance with the ARRIVE guidelines in 2021." – UNIVERSITY

It is recommended practice that signatories require good publication standards and employ a checking process to ensure these standards are adhered to. While not all signatories enforce adherence to the ARRIVE guidelines⁵, 81 signatories stated that they endorse and actively encourage staff to meet them, an increase on last year (78). These signatories include organisations that carry out their own research and members that are involved in research practice. From 2020 we noted that signatories also mentioned their work in following the PREPARE⁶ guidelines and during 2021, and 2022 signatories were expressly asked whether they work to PREPARE.

The requirement that ARRIVE guidelines are met is often viewed as an issue for the journals, who can specify them as part of the publication process, but the Concordat recommends that research organisations, together with associations whose members are researchers, take steps to ensure that ARRIVE is actively employed by those who use animals in research, to support transparency and reproducibility of research.

Several commercial organisations employ their own standards based on ARRIVE, and these are required for all published work. PREPARE guidelines are not publication standards but provide a framework for ensuring experimental design and data collection that supports ARRIVE.

⁵ www.nc3rs.org.uk/arrive-guidelines

⁶ https://norecopa.no/prepare

Do you require that ARRIVE or equivalent publication guidelines are met for the research that your organisation carries out?



Do you require that PREPARE guidelines are met for the research that your organisation carries out? (n=80)

Yes	Research signatories only	44% 35
No	Research signatories only	51% 41
Skipped	Research signatories only	5% 4

Signatories are also encouraged to communicate their 3Rs work to the media and the public. Signatories reported that they include information for the 3Rs on their websites (76), other organisational publications such as leaflets, reports, and magazines (37), and media releases (23). Support for the 3Rs and welfare in the sector is also on the increase with 42 signatories reporting that they host 3Rs discussions and prize-giving events.



Commitment 3:

We will be proactive in providing opportunities for the public to learn about animal research

"The role of the use of animals in research is mentioned as and when appropriate and will never be purposefully withheld from conversations with the public. In the future, we will continue to work in partnership with other organisations to promote public engagement on animals in research." — LEARNED SOCIETY

3.1 Co-operative working to provide explanations of animal use in research

"In the publication of our animal research information, we facilitated members of the Parkinson's community to visit animal research facilities. We used their comments in the production of our animal research leaflet." – RESEARCH CHARITY



Signatories were asked to provide examples of when they had collaborated with other organisations to provide information about the use of animals in research. Forty organisations provided examples of collaborative work, which were enormously varied including presentations to other organisations, social media campaigns and outreach events. Post-pandemic there seems to be less concern over social media, and many organisations employ these new tools, but many have also connected with other organisations to reach new audiences and to provide better information to the public.

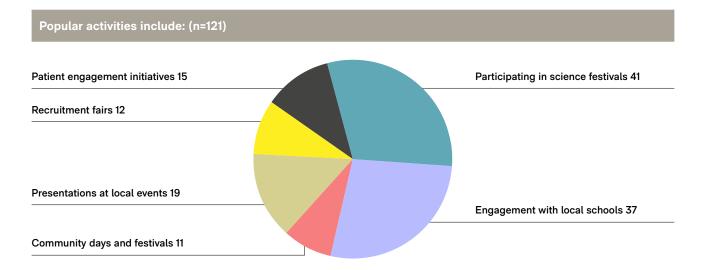
3.2 Activities that encourage public engagement with the issues of animals in scientific, medical and veterinary research

"We held a Biomedical Research Awareness Day Zoom presentation showing videos of our global animal facilities and animals undergoing procedures (pigs and rodents) with the audience of high school students and teachers at 18 US high schools." – PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANY

Signatories are continuously developing innovative ways to talk about animal research with the public and develop new ways of engaging each year. This aspect of openness brings the research to life, and after the restrictions of the pandemic organisations have begun to plan events once more. Many have now adapted to the new opportunities for online engagement, although public engagement has not yet reached the levels of previous years.

Many of the smaller non-research signatories do not directly develop public engagement activities, but encourage their members to become STEM Ambassadors, allowing them to be part of an active outreach network. Some associations encourage outreach through prizes and awards, while others encourage their members or funding recipients to take part in these events.





Many signatories support openness around animal research through schools' engagement, which is valuable for bringing young people into the sector as well as for raising awareness of animal research, animal welfare and the importance of humane research practices. Many of the signatories that carry out animal research reported that their usual schools' engagement was impossible during the pandemic, but these programmes are beginning to take place again. Some organisations engage with schools through UAR but also run their own initiatives.

Does your organisation support researchers or staff to give talks in schools about animal research? (n=121)

Yes: through UAR	Research signatory (n=80)	19
	Non-research signatory (n=41)	4
Yes: through own initiative	Research signatory (n=80)	43
	Non-research signatory (n=41)	7
No	Research signatory (n=80)	27
	Non-research signatory (n=41)	27

"Limitations as a company with regard to customer confidentiality and facility integrity [...] means we cannot invite the public into our barrier facilities." – CONTRACT RESEARCH ORGANISATION

When possible, signatories that carry out research are recommended to allow public access to animal facilities, so that visitors can see what is involved in the research and how animals are cared for. No signatories are required to do this under the Concordat, but it remains one of the best and most effective ways to provide members of the public with opportunities to learn about animal research.

Some commercial organisations stated that they are limited in allowing visitors on site to see their animals and the ways they work, because of potential conflicts with commercial aspects of their business.



Openness case studies

Submitted April 2021 - March 2022



Introduction

The Leaders in Openness standard recognises a structured and embedded culture of openness, which communicates effectively to colleagues within, and the public beyond, the life-sciences sector. Leaders in Openness are those signatories that provide clear, transparent and relevant information to people from a range of backgrounds and ethical views.

This initiative was launched in 2019 to recognise those organisations that consistently meet stretch goals and implement the recommendations of the Concordat. The assessment process looks at complex areas such as the balance of information about harms and benefits in detail, and the initiative supports all signatories by providing clear examples of embedded good practice from a range of organisations. Candidates' public-facing communications are reviewed by public and peers against criteria for current good practice in openness around media communications, staff engagement, website development and public engagement. Full details of this initiative, including the criteria and assessment process, are available on the Concordat on Openness website.

Leaders in Openness are presented annually and once awarded they are held by an organisation for three years. The first 13 Leaders in Openness were announced in 2019, in 2020 the University of Edinburgh became a Leader in Openness, and in 2021 they were joined by the University of Reading.

In 2022, for the first time Leaders in Openness were required to reapply, and 12 organisations made successful reapplications.

Here, we offer selected case studies of excellence to share good practice implemented by the Leaders in Openness.



Leaders in Openness 2022

Agenda Life Sciences
The Babraham Institute
The Francis Crick Institute
Imperial College London
The Institute of Cancer Research
Newcastle University
The Pirbright Institute
Royal Veterinary College
University of Bath
University of Cambridge
University of Leicester
University of Manchester
University of Reading
University of Edinburgh

⁷ http://concordatopenness.org.uk/leaders-in-openness

University of Manchester

Website

www.manchester.ac.uk/research/environment/governance/ethics/animals/

The University of Manchester's animal research webpages are leading within the life-science sector and display some of the best examples of website openness among all Concordat signatories.

The comprehensive selection of webpages displays information that aims to engage and educate a range of audiences about why and how the university carries out scientific research using animals.

When visitors first come to the university's animal research landing page, they are greeted with a clear statement that the university uses animals in its research and and an explanation of why this is the case. The landing page highlights the university's ethical review process and directs visitors to further information, including AWERB minutes dating back to 2016.

The landing page gives an overview on the university's commitment to openness, including the inclusion of its specific animal research communication and engagement strategy for the wider public and university community.

An engaging video, led by one of the university's lab technicians, gives an overview of the facilities, the species used, and the areas of research being studied. A more detailed virtual lab tour is also available, alongside specific case studies. Images from the facility are used as illustrations throughout the site.

Beyond the landing page, visitors can find information about the number and specific species used at the university. Detailed statistics are available in the form of an infographic that also includes contextual disease prevalence statistics related to the university's research areas. Non-technical summaries dating back to 2014 are also available. A page dedicated to harms and benefits has recently been added, which contains information about severity levels, including statistics.

There are numerous highlighted case studies, including research into specific human and animal diseases, and the 3Rs. Many of these examples use videos and images to illustrate the animals that were involved. A FAQ section helps to myth bust common misconceptions.

There is a page dedicated to the university's animal research public engagement programme and extensive information about governance and legislation is also available. A specific email address for animal research enquires is promoted and used regularly by the public, scientists and colleagues from the sector.

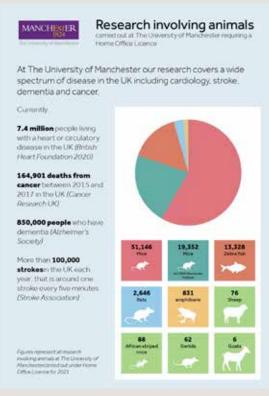
The website is easy to navigate and visually eye-catching thanks to its use of images, videos and infographics.





The University of Manchester







Main corridor





Germ-free mice



Rats View 3





Sheep



Corridor Vienu 3



Pre-op



Robot cage cleaner View 5



Main corridor



Seawater environment laboratory

View 9

Imperial College London

Media engagement

Imperial has a research media team who are dedicated to specialised topics and produce a steady stream of press releases and news stories on research carried out at the university.

The media team make sure species and procedures are correctly reported in relevant media releases, alongside the Academy of Medical Sciences/Science Media Centre labelling system. This means that any study carried out on animals is always labelled as such at the top of the press release. All press releases that talk about work involving animal research include the following statement:

"This study involved work with <insert type of animal(s) here>. Imperial is a Leader in Openness in animal research and you can find out more about animal research at Imperial on our animal research web pages."

Imperial provides a range of training sessions, including ad-hoc one-to-one meetings, to make sure staff and researchers are supported in their interactions with the media. For example, researchers involved with COVID-19 studies have been heavily supported by the media team to talk about how animals have been used in this work.

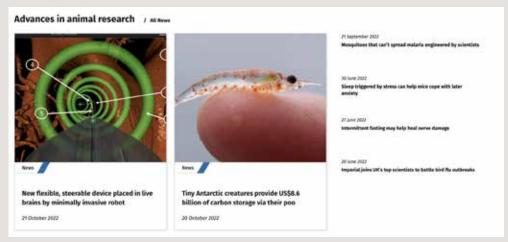
Imperial uses social media for further engagement opportunities. Reddit "ask-me-anything" (AMA) interviews with Imperial researchers whose work involves animals is an ongoing activity. These interviews take place on a publicly accessible forum that gives anyone an opportunity to submit a question. Recent AMAs have included conversations about the animal research that's been carried out for Imperial's COVID-19 vaccine.

The university comms team used the COVID-19 pandemic as an opportunity to highlight the critical work of its animal care staff. An article, with accompanying photos, was produced for the university website to share the experience of six different staff, including the facility director and the animal care staff who worked to look after research animals while a national lockdown was in place. A podcast series (AnimalResearch@Imperial) was launched shortly after to share the voices of other animal technicians working in the facilities during the pandemic.

The Imperial Annual Animal Forum, chaired by the Provost, is a unique occasion to showcase and celebrate excellence in animal research at the university. Stakeholders, including the media, are always invited to attend.



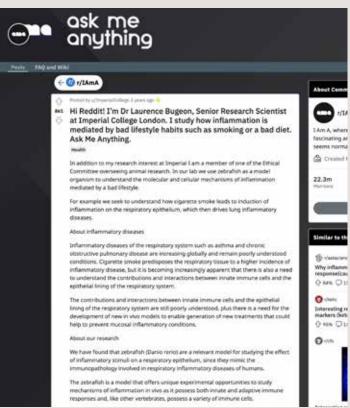
Imperial College London



In the first episode, which you can listen to below, animal technologist Julia, shares her feelings about the restrictions in place in the units and how those measurements have affected her job and life.



Producer of the podcast series, Dr Anna Napolitano, said: "Researchers might be able to put on hold their experiments for a few weeks, but the animals that live in the facilities need to be cared for 24/7. Animal technologists are, therefore, on the front line, with the welfare of the animals used in research as their top priority. Without their precious contribution, scientific discoveries, like the vaccine for the COVID-19, couldn't happen."



The Pirbright Institute

Internal engagement

Informing and engaging with staff around the use of animals in research at The Pirbright Institute begins at the interview process. At every interview, candidates are advised that the Institute's scientific research involves the use of animals, and the reasons behind this are explained. This is standard for all job roles, regardless of whether the role is directly related to or involved in animal work.

A dedicated area on the staff intranet outlines the work of the Animal Services Team. This includes a section identifying the Named Persons and an explanation of their roles and responsibilities, an open invitation to sit on an AWERB meeting, advice on how to arrange an animal study, and an open invitation to tour the animal facilities. In lieu of physical tours during the COVID-19 pandemic, a virtual tour of the Institute's new avian facility was created for all staff to view.

Historically, The Pirbright Institute has not been the focus for demonstrations against the use of animals in research; presumably, because the research directly benefits the welfare of animals. However, several demonstrations have taken place recently, prompting the Institute's Director to write a blog on the staff intranet explaining Pirbright's position on animal research. The blog acknowledged the seriousness of the protesters' main arguments but emphasised the value and quality of the Institute's research, their compliance with the legislation and their commitment to high standards of animal welfare. Importantly the blog also served to support staff with a clear outline of the safety and support measures in place. As further support, UAR presented at the Institute's annual Culture of Care and 3Rs meeting offering advice on how to communicate animal research with friends and family.

The activities of the AWERB are explained in detail on the intranet. This includes meeting dates, meeting minutes, core responsibilities, and details of membership. In addition to this, a specific page explains 3Rs advancements made at the Institute, case studies, and posters. Users of the site are also encouraged to find further information about the use of animals in research via external links to a variety of organisations and electronic books.

The Animal Services Team is involved in the induction of all new staff. The team provides a presentation, which includes images from the facility, and two videos outlining the legislation, species, facilities, housing and care practices, and 3Rs. Staff are advised that the Institute has a policy and process in place for reporting any concerns relating to animal care, treatment or welfare. Posters displaying the process for handling a concern are displayed in the entrance lobby of all the animal facilities. To complement their induction, all new starters are required to complete a mandatory module, as part of their overall induction process, covering animal care and welfare standards and practices at the Institute.

An annual Culture of Care and 3Rs meeting is open to all staff and an invitation is extended to external attendees from within the sector. The 2021 meeting included talks on:

- The AWERB's remit and what the culture of care at the Institute means in practice
- Understanding Animal Research on openness and transparency about the use of animals in research to enable honest conversations about its benefits, harms and limitations
- NC3Rs' online resource to evaluate environmental enrichment
- Efforts to replace animal-derived antibodies
- Mind Matters Initiative addressing mental health and wellbeing during a pandemic

Continuing with the focus on wellbeing, the 2022 meeting included presentations on compassion fatigue and how this important topic can be addressed by establishments. The Institute's annual report includes numerous references to its use of animals, including photos and an in-depth section covering the research facilities and animal welfare.







This course aims to provide an overview of The Pirbright Institute's animal care and welfare standards and practices for all animals that are bred for, supplied for and used in scientific research.

Staff Training and Compete ① Quiz









The Pirkelght Institute is a world leading occure diseases of tiern animals and viruses that spread from animals to humans. Some of this work involves controlled animal experiments, mostly with tarm species; the species that will principally besetlt (vota our meant).



How do we undertake this research?

Flow do we undertake this research:

Research programmes at the Fidelight territare and use animals when these
are no alternatives. Breasarchers working with animals most more high
ethical standards and adhere to strick implication that subgrounds animal
written in the V.T. The working or disminal used in scientific research at the
Publicipit testinate is of paramount importance to all staff. We ensure that
animal same hidsons the respirarentum of the those Olive's Code of Practice
for the Hessings and Care of America used in Scientific Procedures. Henceure,
The Orietigis Institute attives to adopt higher standards where pasticable
and amount of the second controlled. and applicable.









The 3Rs

Our scientists are committed to the principles of the 3Rs. The 3Rs are central to The Pirbright Institute's values and we take our responsibility seriously to ensure experiments are designed to avoid use of animals wherever possible and ensure we produce results that are of benefit to animal health and welfare.

Reduction (in numbers)

Refinement (of procedures)

Replacement (with other scientific alternatives)

The Francis Crick Institute

Public engagement

The Francis Crick Institute has a comprehensive public engagement programme that doesn't shy away from talking about its animal research. The Crick hosts a variety of online and in-person events, and staff that are interested in public engagement receive appropriate training.

The Crick hosts regular events such as Discovery Day, an open day for the public where they can attend talks, meet scientists, and play science-related games. While these in-person events were put on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a series of events targeting broad audiences were held online.

Family Zone – a range of 25 activities – available on the Crick website was created to engage younger people. Several of the activities, including 'meet the scientist' videos, talk about animal research.

The COVID Conversation series, available on the Crick website and YouTube channel, features interviews with Crick scientists about their research, including how animals have been used.

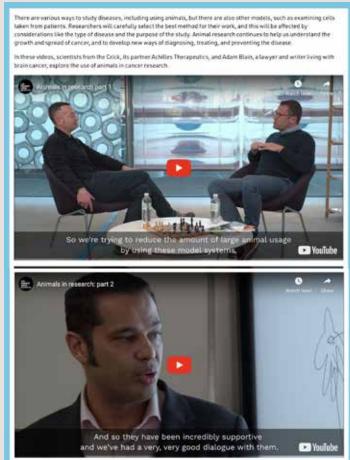
The Crick's public exhibition 'Outwitting Cancer' was open to the public and was made available online due to the pandemic. The exhibition aimed to engage the public with cancer patients and survivors. Several videos from the exhibition included interviews and conversations about cancer research using animals carried out at the Crick. The exhibition was widely advertised on social media and through Time Out. While the physical exhibition closed in December 2022, the virtual material will remain on the Crick website.

The Crick has begun to resume public engagement events in person. Crick Lates and Meet the Scientist are back on a regular basis, which gives members of the public an opportunity to visit the Crick and ask questions to scientists about their work, including their research with animals.

The Crick also hosts annual awards for its staff and scientists which include different categories such as the 3Rs and public engagement.











Güneş normally studies how animals develop their ovaries, but lately she's been working on COVID-19 testing. She answered your questions about becoming a scientist, working with chickens, and how you deactivate viruses.

Part





Evaluation of management processes

UAR actively manages the Concordat and asks for feedback from signatories on the support they have been given over the year.

"This questionnaire is a very useful exercise in highlighting areas where we need to improve." – RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Signatories reported that they are happy with the Concordat, find it valuable, and feel that it is enabling change in their organisations. The reporting process is seen as useful, and signatories prefer the shorter form for returns. The Concordat on Openness aims to represent the range of organisations that fall within its scope. The reporting serves as a reminder of what other organisations are doing, but also provides an opportunity for comment by organisations that do things differently.

During the pandemic, it has not been possible for signatories to meet to learn from one another and discuss ways forward. In 2022 signatories met face to face once more at a smaller event than we have seen in previous years. The excellent suggestions for sessions that would allow signatories to learn from one another (below) have been noted, and 2023 will provide more opportunities for face-to-face events where signatories can consider these issues together.

Concordat signatories agreed (81%) or somewhat agreed (15%) that they understand the Concordat commitments and the support available to help fulfil them. Only 2% (2) did not agree.

Similarly, 87% of signatories saw the Concordat as an important step forward for biomedical research, while 10% qualified their agreement as 'somewhat', and 3% neither agreed nor disagreed.

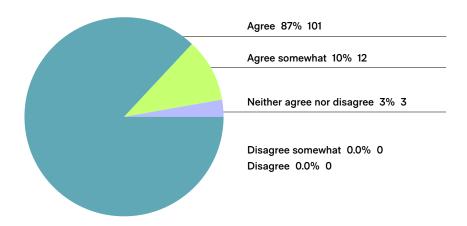
Only 15% of signatories were unconvinced that the Concordat would lead to real changes in their organisations. For some organisations internal and structural difficulties can make implementing the Concordat challenging, and small, sector-focused organisations whose work is not public facing can feel less involved with openness, although they are supportive.

Most signatories (81%) found the Concordat communications helpful. The newsletter and stand-alone website were seen as particularly useful, in providing clear examples that others could follow.

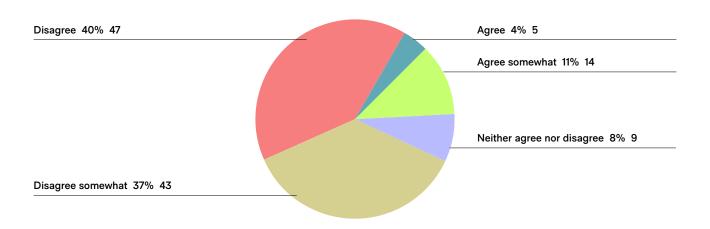
Most signatories (90%) agreed that they knew how to get help in meeting the Concordat commitments, and most signatories are happy with the support they receive in implementing the Concordat (80% agreed or agreed somewhat).

As in previous years, concerns about meeting obligations under the Concordat were mixed across a variety of organisations, who gave different reasons, including internal structures, resources, continuing fearfulness of researchers and distance from the research process which can reduce animal research as a priority.

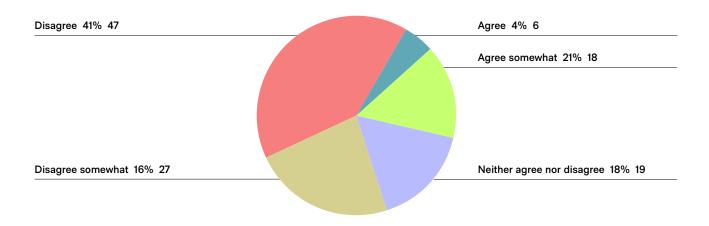
The Concordat is an important step forward for UK-based biomedical research (n=121)



The Concordat is unlikely to lead to real changes in signatory organisations (n=121)



I am worried that my organisation will not be able to meet the Concordat commitments (n=121)





We asked signatories about areas where they would like more support or that they would like to see the Concordat address, and the following themes emerged:

- Face-to-face events for Concordat signatories to share ideas and experiences with one another
- Focus on learned societies and how they can support openness most effectively
- Discussion on how to develop public engagement events and what others are doing
- Guidance on developing social media use without becoming a target for extremists
- Developing joint communications initiatives with other signatories

Appendix

Concordat signatory online statements about the use of animals in research

Research organisations	
Aberystwyth University	www.aber.ac.uk/en/rbi/staff-students/ethics/animals/#statement-on-use-of-animals
Agenda Life Sciences	www.agendalifesciences.com/animal-research-position/
Animal and Plant Health Agency	www.gov.uk/government/organisations/animal-and-plant-health-agency/about/research#ethics-committee
Aston University	www.aston.ac.uk/research/integrity-ethics/animals
AstraZeneca	www.astrazeneca.com/sustainability/ethics-and-transparency/animals-in-research.html
Babraham Institute	www.babraham.ac.uk/our-research/animal-research/policy-on-using-animals-in-research
British Horseracing Authority	www.britishhorseracing.com/regulation/anti-doping-medication-control/bha-centre-for-racehorse-studies/
Brunel University London	www.brunel.ac.uk/about/administration/governance-and-university-committees/Animal-Research-a Brunel
Cardiff University	www.cardiff.ac.uk/research/our-research-environment/integrity-and-ethics/animal-research
Centre for Environment, Fisheries & Aquaculture Science	www.cefas.co.uk/about-us/animals-in-science/
Charles River Laboratories	www.criver.com/about-us/about-us-overview/animals-research?region=3696
Compass Pathways	www.compasspathways.com/our-work/animal-welfare/
Durham University	www.durham.ac.uk/research/research-policy/animal-research/
Envigo	www.envigo.com/concordat-on-openness
Eurogentec	www.eurogentec.com/en/animal-facilities
Fera Science	www.fera.co.uk/about-us/standards-and-accreditation
The Francis Crick Institute	www.crick.ac.uk/research/platforms-and-facilities/biological-research-facility/animal-research
The Griffin Institute	www.griffininstitute.org.uk/transparency/
GSK	www.gsk.com/en-gb/research-and-development/our-use-of-animals/
Harper Adams University	www.harper-adams.ac.uk/research/concordat-on-openness/
Hoeford Research	www.hoeford.com/animal-welfare
Imperial College London	www.imperial.ac.uk/research-and-innovation/about-imperial-research/research-integrity/animal-research/
The Institute of Cancer Research	www.icr.ac.uk/about-us/policy-and-factsheets/research-using-animals
King's College London	www.kcl.ac.uk/research/facilities/bsu
Labcorp Drug Development	www.drugdevelopment.labcorp.com/commitment/animal-welfare.html
Lancaster University	www.lancaster.ac.uk/research/research-services/research-integrity-ethicsgovernance/awerb/
London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine	www.lshtm.ac.uk/research/research-governance-and-integrity/animal-research
Medical Research Council	www.mrc.ukri.org/research/research-involving-animals/why-we-use-animals/
Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency	www.nibsc.org/about_us/our_use_of_animals.aspx
Moredun Research Institute	www.moredun.org.uk/research/about-moredun-research-institute
Newcastle University	www.ncl.ac.uk/research/researchgovernance/animal/
Nottingham Trent University	www.ntu.ac.uk/research/research-and-impact/research-integrity/research-involving-animals
The Open University	www.open.ac.uk/research/governance/ethics/animal
The Pirbright Institute	www.pirbright.ac.uk/animalresearch
Porton Biopharma	www.portonbiopharma.com/animal-policy/
Queen Mary University of London	www.qmul.ac.uk/research/strategy-support-and-guidance/animal-research/
Queen's University Belfast	www.qub.ac.uk/sites/AnimalResearch/
Robert Gordon University	www.rgu.ac.uk/research/university-research-policies/research-involving-animals
Rothamsted Research	www.rothamsted.ac.uk/sustainable-soils-and-crops
Royal Veterinary College	www.rvc.ac.uk/research/animals-in-research
The state of the s	



Sequani	www.sequani.com/Detail.aspx?page=Animal-Welfare
St George's, University of London	www.sgul.ac.uk/about/governance/policies/use-of-animals-in-research
Swansea University	www.swansea.ac.uk/research/research-integrity-ethics-governance/research-ethics/#animal-welfare-and-ethical-review-body-awerb=is-expanded
UCB Biopharma	www.ucb.com/our-company/Animal-welfare
UCL	www.ucl.ac.uk/animal-research
UK Health Security Agency	www.gov.uk/government/publications/public-health-england-phe-research-involving-animals
UKRI	www.ukri.org/about-us/policies-standards-and-data/good-research-resource-hub/use-of-animals-in-research/
Ulster University	www.ulster.ac.uk/research/institutes/biomedical-sciences/animals-in-research
University of Aberdeen	www.abdn.ac.uk/staffnet/documents/policy-zone-research-and-knowledge-exchange/ ResearchGovernanceHandbook.pdf
University of Bath	www.bath.ac.uk/topics/animal-research/
University of Birmingham	www.birmingham.ac.uk/facilities/bmsu/index.aspx
University of Bradford	www.bradford.ac.uk/research/strategy-quality/research-integrity/biological-services-unit/
University of Brighton	www.brighton.ac.uk/foi/university-information/index.aspx
University of Bristol	www.bristol.ac.uk/animal-research/
University of Cambridge	www.cam.ac.uk/research/research-at-cambridge/animal-research
University of Central Lancashire	www.uclan.ac.uk/research/integrity/animals
University of Dundee	www.dundee.ac.uk/research/governance-policy/policyroadmap/statement-on-use-of-animals/
University of East Anglia	www.uea.ac.uk/about/university-information/university-policies/animal-research-concordat
University of Edinburgh	www.ed.ac.uk/research/animal-research
University of Exeter	https://www.exeter.ac.uk/research/about/aboutus/animalsinresearch/
University of Glasgow	www.gla.ac.uk/research/strategy/ourpolicies/animalresearch/
University of Hertfordshire	www.herts.ac.uk/research/research-management/ethics-and-research-integrity/animal-research
University of Leeds	www.leeds.ac.uk/info/5000/about/520/animal_research/2
University of Leicester	https://le.ac.uk/dbs
University of Liverpool	www.liverpool.ac.uk/research-integrity/animal-research/
University of Manchester	www.manchester.ac.uk/research/environment/governance/ethics/animals/
University of Nottingham	www.nottingham.ac.uk/animalresearch/index.aspx
University of Oxford	www.ox.ac.uk/news-and-events/animal-research/
University of Plymouth	www.plymouth.ac.uk/research/animals
University of Portsmouth	www.port.ac.uk/research/research-culture/research-using-animals
University of Reading	www.reading.ac.uk/research/animal-research
University of Sheffield	www.sheffield.ac.uk/research-services/ethics-integrity/animal-research/transparency-accountability
University of Southampton	www.southampton.ac.uk/awerb/index.page?
University of St Andrews	www.st-andrews.ac.uk/research/integrity-ethics/animals/
University of Stirling	www.stir.ac.uk/research/research-ethics-and-integrity/animal-research-at-the-university-of-stirling/our-research-involving-animals/
University of Strathclyde	www.strath.ac.uk/science/biomedicalresearchatstrathclyde/
University of Surrey	www.surrey.ac.uk/school-biosciences-medicine/biomedical-research-facility/animals
University of Sussex	www.sussex.ac.uk/research/about/standards/research-procedures-involving-animals
University of York	www.york.ac.uk/research/animal-research/

Concordat signatory online statements about the use of animals in research

The Academy of Medical Sciences	www.comodoci.co.uk/policy/uk-policy/opimalo.in-recognih
The Academy of Medical Sciences	www.acmedsci.ac.uk/policy/uk-policy/animals-in-research
Alzheimer's Research UK	www.alzheimersresearchuk.org/about-us/our-influence/policy-work/position-statements/animal-research/
Anatomical Society	www.anatsoc.org.uk/research/animals-in-research-policy-statement
Association of Medical Research Charities	www.amrc.org.uk/position-statement-on-the-use-of-animals-in-research
Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry	www.abpi.org.uk/medicine-discovery/new-medicines-data/research-using-animals/
BBSRC	www.bbsrc.ukri.org/research/briefings/animals-in-bioscience-research/
Biochemical Society	www.biochemistry.org/home/science-policy/policy-position-statements/
BioIndustry Association	www.bioindustry.org/policy/pre-clinical-and-clinical-research/animal-research.html
Blood Cancer UK	www.bloodcancer.org.uk/research/animals/
British Association for Psychopharmacology	www.bap.org.uk/position_statement.php
British Heart Foundation	www.bhf.org.uk/what-we-do/our-policies/animals-in-research
British Neuroscience Association	www.bna.org.uk/about/policies/#animal-research-policy
British Pharmacological Society	www.bps.ac.uk/education-engagement/animal-research
British Society for Immunology	www.immunology.org/sites/default/files/2022-11/the-use-of-animals-in-immunological-research-positiion-statement.pdf
British Toxicology Society	www.thebts.org/animalsafety/
Cancer Research UK	www.cancerresearchuk.org/our-research/involving-animals-in-research
Children with Cancer UK	www.childrenwithcancer.org.uk/childhood-cancer-info/we-fund-research/research-involving-animals
Cystic Fibrosis Trust	www.cysticfibrosis.org.uk/the-work-we-do/research/animal-testing
EPSRC	www.ukri.org/about-us/epsrc/our-policies-and-standards/policy-on-use-of-animals-in-research/
Institute of Animal Technology	www.iat.org.uk/animaltechnology
Kidscan Children's Cancer Research	www.kidscan.org.uk/position-animal-testing/
Laboratory Animal Breeders Association	www.laba-uk.com/site/?page_id=95
Laboratory Animal Science Association	www.lasa.co.uk/
Laboratory Animals Veterinary Association	www.lava.uk.net/viewtopic.php?f=3&t=26
Leukaemia UK	www.leukaemiauk.org.uk/Pages/Category/research-strategy
Medical Schools Council	www.medschools.ac.uk/our-work/research
Microbiology Society	www.microbiology society.org/publication/position-statement/2015-use-of-animals-in-research.html
Motor Neurone Disease Association	www.mndassociation.org/research/our-research/using-animals-and-stem-cells/animal-research/our-position-statement-on-animal-research/
MS Society	www.mssociety.org.uk/research/latest-research/animal-research
NC3Rs	www.nc3rs.org.uk/who-we-are-and-what-we-do
NERC	www.nerc.ukri.org/about/policy/animals-in-research/?changesetid=EA34E605-95B3-4ACA-84F0A2ECAEA25F00
Ovarian Cancer Action	www.ovarian.org.uk/our-research/animals-research/
Pancreatic Cancer UK	www.pancreaticcancer.org.uk/research/our-policies-advisory-board/other-research-policies/
Parkinson's UK	www.parkinsons.org.uk/about-us/animal-research-at-parkinsons-UK
Pfizer	www.pfizer.co.uk/responsibility/animal-welfare
The Physiological Society	www.physoc.org/animals-research
PTEN Research	www.ptenresearch.org/for-families-living-with-phts/our-research/use-of-animals-in-research/
The Royal Society	www.royalsociety.org/topics-policy/publications/2015/animals-in-research/
Royal Society of Biology	www.rsb.org.uk/policy/policy-issues/biomedical-sciences/animal-research
	https://www.endocrinology.org/media/1643/14-11_animalresearch.pdf



Understanding Animal Research	www.understanding an imal research.org. uk/about-us/uar-position-on-the-use-of-an imal s-in-research/about-us/uar-position-on-the-use-of-an imal s-in-research/about-us/uar-position-on-the-us-of-an imal s-	
Universities UK	www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/topics/research-and-innovation/concordats-and-agreements	
Versus Arthritis	www.versusarthritis.org/research/information-for-researchers/our-approach-to-research/our-research-policies/	
Veterinary Schools Council	www.vetschoolscouncil.ac.uk/concordat-on-openness-on-animal-research/	
Wellcome	www.wellcome.ac.uk/what-we-do/our-work/our-policy-work-animal-research	
Wings for Life	www.wingsforlife.com/en/research-policy/	
Worldwide Cancer Research	www.worldwidecancerresearch.org/news-opinion/2022/october/why-do-we-support-the-use-of-animals-in-research/	

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