



Home Office

Baroness Williams of Trafford
Minister of State for
Countering Extremism

2 Marsham Street,
London SW1P 4DF
www.gov.uk/home-office

Jean Lambert MEP
Office of the Green MEPs
CAN Mezzanine
49-51 East Road
London
N1 6AH

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Jean Jean,

Thank you for your letter of 20 February to the Minister of State for Security and Economic Crime regarding the testing of cosmetics on animals. I am replying as the Minister with policy responsibility for this area.

The UK was the first country in the world to ban cosmetics being tested on animals. We are keen to share our knowledge and best practice with other countries to support the ending of cosmetics testing on animals in favour of non-animal alternatives across the world.

The testing of cosmetics and their ingredients on animals in the UK has been banned since 1998 and the UK has been instrumental in introducing this ban across the European Union and beyond. For example, over the last few years the Home Office and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office have continued to support China to bring an end to unnecessary cosmetics testing on animals, advising on a science-based approach for alternative testing.

There has also been a complete ban throughout the EU on the sale of cosmetics developed using animal tests since 2013. The ban applies to all new cosmetics and their ingredients sold in the EU.

The UK plays a leading role globally in supporting the development and adoption of techniques to replace, reduce and refine the use of animals. The UK's animals in science regulatory system ensures that animal research and testing is carried out only where no practicable alternative exists, and under controls which keep suffering to the minimum. This is achieved through robustly applying the principles of Replacement, Reduction and Refinement (the 3Rs) which require that, in every research proposal, animals are replaced with non-animal alternatives wherever possible; that the number of animals used is reduced to the minimum needed to achieve the results sought; and that, for those animals which must be used, procedures are refined as much as possible to minimise their suffering.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Baroness Williams of Trafford', with a large, stylized initial 'B'.

Baroness Williams of Trafford