



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Lord Vallance of Balham
Minister of State for Science, Innovation, Research and Nuclear
Department for Science, Innovation and Technology

11 November 2025

Dear Patrick,

I am writing regarding two announcements today by the Labour Government addressing concerns about animal welfare, particularly the use of animals in scientific research.

I welcome the publication of, first, a roadmap to accelerate the phasing out of animal testing with the promotion and support of alternative methods, and second, a strategy setting out how this transition will be managed and delivered. It is encouraging that the announcements have been well received by leading figures across science, research, and animal welfare.

The strategy outlines a long-term vision for a future in which the use of animals in science occurs only in the most exceptional circumstances. It identifies six key goals:

1. Accelerating the phasing out of animal use in research and testing.
2. Enabling equal or better outcomes in research and regulatory testing using alternative methods.
3. Driving private investment in alternative methods.
4. Improving regulatory confidence in alternative methods.
5. Creating infrastructure and collaborations to leverage data assets.
6. Positioning the UK as a global leader in alternative methods.

I welcome this strategy as a positive and ambitious step for animal welfare and it aligns with my long-standing call in Parliament for a reduced reliance on animals in science.

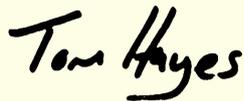
To deliver on these goals, the strategy commits to establishing a Pre-Clinical Translational Models Hub and a UK Centre for the Validation of Alternative Methods; developing national infrastructure such as data-sharing platforms and enabling the use of AI and large datasets to reduce animal use and support alternative approaches; strengthening governance through a cross-government ministerial group, publication of key performance indicators, and a publicly accessible progress dashboard.

On behalf of my constituents, I would welcome further information on the following points:

1. The expected timeframe for establishing the new translational hub and validation centre, and how their effectiveness will be assessed.
2. The level of funding to be allocated to the development of alternative methods.
3. The extent of transparency planned for reporting progress, particularly through the proposed dashboard of key performance indicators.
4. The ethical safeguards that will remain in place for the continued use of animals until alternatives can fully replace them.

I would be grateful for your responses on the next steps for implementing these commitments and for ensuring the UK continues to lead the world in ethical and innovative science.

With best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Hayes". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Tom Hayes MP
Labour Member of Parliament for Bournemouth East