

30th November 2005

Dear Senator,

re Animal Welfare Bill

I am horrified that you are considering making a register of the names and addresses of scientists using animals in research open for free public access.

In the UK the homes of scientists have been violently targeted by animal rights activists. Surely you don't want scientists and their families exposed to this kind of risk and terrorism?

Before any animals are used in research, scientists must seek Animal Ethics Approval. This is an in depth analysis of the research and all aspects of animal welfare during experiments are scrutinized, including minimization of number of animals used, ethical limits of pain and suffering, humane euthanasia, good housing conditions, to name but a few. This body has been formed to ensure the animal research is ethical to standards acceptable to the public. To propose to allow animal activists access to individual researchers, who are already adhering to the strictest regulations is unthinkable and a mockery of the system that is in place.

The use of animals is never taken lightly in science and, I can assure you, it is avoided where possible, at all times. However, the benefits to society is enormous and our understanding and ability to treat many diseases would be far less advanced without the important information animal research provides.

I sincerely hope you will not be putting myself and my husband and three young children at risk by publishing our addresses anywhere.

Yours faithfully,

Cleo Robinson