

From: Paul Flynn
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2014 2:35 PM
To: helen.skinner@pins.gsi.gov.uk ; director@forlifeonearth.org.uk
Subject: Request for Public Inquiry

Dear Helen Skinner,

Request for Public Inquiry on medical and scientific national interest grounds: appeal against refusal of planning permission (DC/13/03245/STLBC and DC/13/03244/STPLF) B&K Universal, The Field Station, Grimston Lane HU114QE

I write in my capacity as the MP who is leading a presentation of highly qualified medical expertise in Parliament; we already have 52 MPs who have signed an Early Day Motion (EDM) calling for properly moderated, public scientific debates about the misleading practice of trying to apply results from animal experiments to human patients.

Legal Representation

Britain's leading human rights defence barrister Michael Mansfield QC has endorsed the debate conditions for this Parliamentary EDM, constituting legal representation for the urgent need for such a thorough scientific inquiry.

I understand this planning appeal by B&K Universal has been recovered by the Secretary of State to determine under his jurisdiction and that the appeal will follow the written representations procedure.

In light of increasing Parliamentary support for a thorough scientific examination regarding the claims that animals can predict the responses of human patients in medical research, this proposed Beagle expansion is no longer limited to planning issues; the need to test the evidence of B&K's scientific claims *which they make in their planning application* falls within the criteria for dealing with an appeal through a Public Inquiry, as outlined below:

Public Inquiry in accordance with the criteria for determining the procedure for planning in Annexe J of the Planning Inspectorate – Procedural Guidance- Planning Appeals and called-in planning applications – England – 6 March 2014.

Criteria for determining the procedure for planning, enforcement, advertisement and discontinuance notice appeals. Inquiry - an inquiry would be appropriate if:

1. There is a clearly explained need for the evidence to be tested through formal questioning by an advocate
2. The issues are complex
3. The appeal has generated substantial local interest to warrant an inquiry, as opposed to dealing with the case by a hearing

The need to test B&K's scientific claims

B&K Universal consistently make false medical claims about human patients in all their media coverage, and within their actual planning documents, in order to support their planning proposal:

[B&K's Design, Access, Planning and Heritage statement, page 8:](#)

The presence of a vibrant life sciences industry in the UK should help to enhance opportunities for patients to participate in clinical trials, known to help improve patient care and provide early access to new treatments. A strong life sciences industry is dependent on our world leading research base. Use of animals is a small but important part of biomedical research for example to further understanding of basic mechanisms of health and disease and provide new targets for treatment of diseases such as dementia.

B&K Universal additionally engage pro-vivisection lobbying group 'Understanding Animal Research' to promote false claims about human patient care in their interviews for BBC Look North.

Proof of Evidence for a Public Inquiry

Current Scientific Understanding

Current scientific understanding, best illustrated by the seminal work *Animal Models in Light of Evolution* (2009) Shanks PhD and Greek MD, demonstrates the very real harm caused to the effective progress of new treatments for human disease. This position is supported by decades of empirical evidence now placed within the context of Trans-Species Modeling Theory, which explains exactly how and why animal experiments consistently fail human patients. This scientific position is acknowledged by pharmaceutical companies who write about the failure of animal experiments openly and often in the scientific literature, please visit this link for extensive examples.

Precedent Ruling

A similar planning appeal was submitted in 2003, involving Cambridge University's planning application to build a new non-human primate lab on Green Belt land which required evidence that the lab was 'medically and scientifically in the national interest'. The application was appropriately scrutinised in a public inquiry in which [Europeans for Medical Advancement](#) (EFMA), gave written and oral scientific testimony demonstrating that primate experiments would actually mislead and harm the effective progress of potential cures for human illnesses. On the basis of this science evidence the planning inspectorate ruled that the new primates lab was not in the national interest on "medical and scientific grounds", thereby defeating Cambridge University's planning application. This ruling set a precedent and places B&K Universal's appeal within its context.

The spiralling costs of human patient health care

Illnesses such as dementia affect 800,000 people in the UK and cost the NHS £23 billion p.a. Animal experiments are directly causing these spiraling costs, because they delay effective treatments for humans. The latest Home Office stats confirm that 85% of all laboratory Beagles were used in experiments claimed as able to 'predict' the responses of humans - in human 'applied' studies, essentially for the toxicity testing of new human medicines and ADME studies. It is entirely appropriate that the community of people who make money from breeding animals for such experiments are held to thorough, public scientific account. Only this month, the Editor in Chief of the British Medical Journal wrote her '[Editors Choice](#)' article, 5th June 2014, highlighting the failure of such animal experiments to predict the responses of humans, recommending the public stop funding such research (article also available here http://www.bmj.com/%5bfield_highwire_a_cpath-raw%5d-15).

National Economy and Bio-Science Innovation

Pharmaceutical companies have long acknowledged the failure of animal models in their drug development process and write about this often and openly in the scientific literature, please visit this link for extensive examples <http://www.forlifeonearth.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/Pharmaceutical-Company-Quotes2.pdf> As such, the wider medical industry is moving away from the animal model, towards human-based research methods which will contribute to the success of the national economy and establish the UK as a market leader in the global bio-sciences economy.

Allowing this appeal, in favour of an outdated business that has a short-term future, would further entrench the UK bio-sciences sector in an archaic research paradigm, recognised by the wider scientific community to fail human patients. Continuing to breed and experiment on dogs and other animals in the UK will prove to be a disastrous lengthy distraction to the potential of Innovation and Business Skills of the bio-sciences in the UK economy. The bio-sciences innovation is already, and should be, further supported for its monetizing contribution to the UK's competitiveness in global markets, particularly one in which emerging innovative international economies, such as China, are already racing ahead (further details below). Allowing B&K Universal, who are old fashioned animal breeders, to successfully appeal against the rejection of their planning proposal to an intensely scaled up expansion of their facility, is to turn back the bio-sciences 200 years and is equivalent to allowing the expansion of a horse carriage manufacturers at the time scientists have invented the engine-driven motorised vehicle! Such animal experiments were [first institutionalised in 1847 by Claude Bernard](#), who went on to reject the Theory of Evolution.

UK Competitiveness in Global Bio-Science Markets

The government's Strategy for UK Life Sciences launched in 2011, was in recognition of the key potential to the UK economy of the Life Sciences sector and in particular it was designed to foster, support and fund innovation for bioscience for SMEs who were developing human based research methodologies focused on Phase 2 clinical trials, i.e. avoiding the misleading results of Phase 1 trials involving the use of animal experiments. This Government economic strategy recognises, if only by inference, that animal experiments in Phase 1 trials are a hindrance to the development of effective medical research of cures and treatments of human patients. Meanwhile in the rapidly emerging economy of China, where they sense the commercial opportunities of innovation in the bio-sciences sector worldwide, courses are being run for researchers and clinicians in Research & Development involving non-animal testing methods. These are innovative replacements that hold the potential to accurately predict the human response to diseases and drugs. These courses are already heavily oversubscribed with supply of places on these courses not meeting demand. China threaten to become market leaders in the world where the UK are in danger of stagnating in an outdated unscientific unreliable paradigm that fails patients and fails the UK's competitiveness in bio-science global markets.

In the UK there are many entrepreneurial SME's who would wish to speak at a Public Inquiry in support of abandoning animal breeding that supplies out-dated animal research laboratories, unwelcome to our economy as a flawed scientific distraction to innovation. For example: Kirkstall Ltd: 'a biotechnology company specialising in products and services supporting in-vitro cell culture research and the development of routine in-vitro testing'. Dr Meg Lewis of Kirkstall Ltd could speak at this Public Inquiry, highlighting statistics that would save huge financial costs currently incurred by pharmaceutical companies. Here, Dr Meg Lewis' presents a sixteen minute lecture at a recent seminar http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=h5bKPa-wp7Q

Outdated Laws

Outdated laws which mandated animal testing sixty-eight years ago, when science was [still very much in its infancy](#), must not be allowed to hold pharmaceutical industries back in their drug development pipeline. There are many additional examples of innovative UK bio-science SME's who are developing and patenting modern, non-animal testing methods, who will also request to the Secretary of State to instigate a Public Inquiry.

Conclusion

I urgently request that this appeal is decided by means of a Public Inquiry, to test the evidence of B&K Universals claims made in support of their planning proposal through formal questioning by an advocate, and to hear witness testimony from the world's leading medical experts who oppose experiments on animals solely on human medical and scientific grounds. It is vital there is public scrutiny of these national issues in order to hear representatives from the UK's bio-science sector, who understand that the old fashioned laws mandating animal experiments no longer serve the NHS nor our bio-science sector. Allowing a small community, which relies on income produced by such animal experiments, to dominate our society unquestionably warrants investigation under the auspices of a Public Inquiry.

Yours sincerely,

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