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**REPORT BY THE ANIMAL PROCEDURES COMMITTEE ON THE
USE OF NON-HUMAN PRIMATES UNDER THE ANIMALS (SCIENTIFIC
PROCEDURES) ACT 1986**

In December 2002 the Animal Procedures Committee published its report on the use of Non-Human Primates under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986. Bob Ainsworth, the Minister then responsible for the implementation of the 1986 Act, provided an interim response to the Committee's report in June 2003. The Annex to this letter is our final response to the Committee's report and recommendations.

In his interim response, Bob Ainsworth fully accepted and acted on two of the Committee's recommendations – recommendation 1, that a forum of stakeholders should be convened to address the issues raised in the report, and recommendation 5, urging the Government to support the concept and practice of human tissue donation for research.

The stakeholder forum was convened in January 2004 and a report of the event was published at the end of March 2005. The views expressed by stakeholders at the forum and the further comments received following publication of the report of the forum have informed our further detailed consideration of the Committee's report and recommendations.

In responding to the report, I wish to record my thanks to your predecessor, Michael Banner, and to the Committee for the time and thought that has been put into it. I am very grateful for the wide-ranging advice it contains, which already influences the consideration we give to the future use of non-human primates in scientific procedures in the United Kingdom.

I am copying this letter to Jane Kennedy, Minister of State, Department of Health, for information and to note, in particular, recommendations 8 and 10.

ANDY BURNHAM