

Migel Wickes.



May 21.

Dear Prime Minister,

I should
be grateful if you could cast an
eye on the enclosed letter from
Robin Ibbs.

I think that what he says
about the Animals Bill, and
the work of my officials, is well
justified. We have deliberately not
blown trumpets about this because
we do not want to arouse all
the familiar controversies about
animal experiments. But this is a



major achievement of your Govt in
an area of enormous difficulty.
As Robin says, a large share
of the credit must go to David
Mellor, and I very much hope
that this can be remembered —
tho' I would hate to lose him from
the H.C. bill we have
secured the
Criminal Justice
Bill next session!

Douglas.

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From Sir Robin Ibbs

The Rt Hon Douglas Hurd CBE, MP
The Secretary of State
Home Office
50 Queen Anne's Gate
London SW1H 9AT

19 May 1986

Now that the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Bill has completed all its Parliamentary stages, I should like to express our appreciation of the work of the Home Office in initiating this difficult piece of legislation and piloting it through.

I am very aware of the pressures on Parliamentary time and we well understood the Government's difficulties last summer when it seemed that it might not be possible to include this Bill in the legislative programme. As you may know, I wrote to your predecessor at the time expressing our concerns and we were very glad that the Cabinet decided to press ahead with the Bill.

It has not been an easy piece of legislation to put together, balancing as it must the legitimate needs of medical research and safety-testing in the interests of human health, against some equally understandable demands on behalf of animal welfare.

The considerable time and effort devoted by the Home Office to discussions with the numerous interested parties, doubtless helped to achieve a greater consensus of opinion. This in turn resulted in the isolation of the extremists and the emergence of legislation which, while much more rigorous in its control of animal experiments, is nevertheless still workable by all serious research departments in industry and academia.

The Minister most closely identified with the Bill is of course David Mellor and in ICI we believe a particular tribute is due to his energy and skill in pulling the legislation together - and not, it has to be said, without unpleasant personal exposure to him and his family. We have also been most impressed by the efforts of the officials in your Department.

I am aware that much detailed work remains to be done on the practical implementation of the new Statute and I can assure you of ICI's collaboration in this. Meanwhile I wanted to take this opportunity to express our appreciation.