

Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body (AWERB)

18/10 A meeting of the Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body (AWERB) was held in Committee Room 2, Whiteknights House on Tuesday 22 May 2018 at 10.00 am.

Present:

[Redacted. Sec.40]

[Redacted. Sec.40],

In attendance:

[Redacted. Sec.40]

Apologies were received from [Redacted. Sec.40] and [Redacted. Sec.40].

18/11 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held on 8 February 2018 were approved subject to the amendment of Harwell to UKRI Harwell Institute.

18/12 Matters Arising

18/03 Non-Technical Summaries

It was noted that these would be complete by the beginning of June

Action: [Redacted. Sec.40]

18/03 17/21 17/13 17/03 *Severity Data*

It was agreed that data on animal use by external clients should also be included in the data published along with a clear explanation of what was included. This action was due to be completed by July.

Action: [Redacted. Sec.40]

18/03 17/21 17/13 17/09 *Work undertaken on non-APSA regulated projects*

It was noted that an email had been sent to [Redacted. Sec.40] and to RUSU to enquire as to whether any animals were used for non-research purposes (for e.g. shows, performances, petting zoos) and to enquire into approval routes for such events. To date four instances had been reported including a guide dog, hearing dog, pets as therapy (PAT) dog, as well as a pet. A final report would be submitted to the AWERB at its next meeting.

Action: [Redacted. Sec.40]

18/06 *Proforma for mid-term and end of contract reviews*

It was noted that the Proforma had been updated in light of comments made at the last meeting.

18/13 Health and Life Sciences Building

[Redacted. Sec.40] provided an updated report to AWERB in relation to welfare and ethical issues in the BRU and the move to the new Health and Life Sciences Building.

It was reported that:

- A project amendment process would be required due to the increase in animal numbers when populating the new BRU. For some projects there would be a validation period when studies were taking place concurrently across both BRUs. [Redacted. Sec.40] would need to amend their project licences accordingly. The Bioresource Unit Implementation Group (BRUIG) had proposed a timeline for this process as follows:
 - [Redacted. Sec.40] to produce an outline of their plans, with approximate increases in numbers detailed between now and September
 - Meeting to be held with [Redacted. Sec.40](subject to availability) to determine standard form of words - September 2018
 - AWERB meeting for review of amendments - January 2019
 - Amendments submitted to HO - March 2019

Action: [Redacted. Sec.40]
- Meetings would need to be held with [Redacted. Sec.40] over the course of the build period.

Action: [Redacted. Sec.40]
- Engagement with Harwell Institute continued with a number of researchers ready to rederive and bank their unique strains. All PPL would need to supply core information by the end of May; once this had been supplied, a timeline would be agreed for completing the work. A plan had been agreed for surplus animals.

- As the opening date for the new unit drew closer, researchers would need to consider winding down certain studies and colonies. Communication detailing these dates would be progressed.
- There would be training requirements for users and technical staff associated with working in the new unit.

It was noted that the issue of who would meet the costs for rederivation or buying new sources still needed to be addressed. [Redacted. Sec.40] was discussing this matter with the [Redacted. Sec.40].

Action: [Redacted. Sec.40]

18/14 Progress on the 3Rs

AWERB received the notes of a sub-group meeting on the 3Rs. It was noted that a number of thoughts had been detailed in regard to: Replacement, Reduction, and Refinement.

The following comments were made in respect of the paper:

- There was a need to challenge at the outset the 3Rs before project licence applications were produced. Training could be run for the Graduate School as well as early career researchers and others.
- For replacement, a proper structured approach could be developed for seeking replacement. This could potentially be a short list of instructions to do before applying for a project licence.
Action: [Redacted. Sec.40]
- Training on seeking alternatives could also be offered before project licence applications were produced. It was possible that FRAME, NC3R or the RSPCA could be approached in regard to this. [Redacted, Sec.40] outlined to the AWERB a talk that she had given a number of Universities in respect of animal welfare ethics as part of a culture of care workshop.
Action: [Redacted. Sec.40]
- It was agreed that the mid-term and end of project review template could also give more attention to the 3Rs.
- It was reported that a number of Universities had dedicated 3R managers and that NC3R were keen to develop regional managers that could possibly be shared appointments between different institutions; [Redacted, Sec.40] agreed to investigate this further.
Action: [Redacted. Sec.40]
- Regular reminders should be sent to project licence holders ahead of their licence running out; it was agreed that this would be discussed further outside of the meeting.
Action: [Redacted. Sec.40]

18/15 Pro-forma for mid-term and end of contract review

AWERB received two mid-term reviews using the new proforma for [Redacted. Sec.40]:

The regulation and role of protein kinases in the heart

The Regulation/role of the ERK1/2 cascade in the heart

In particular, it was noted that substantially fewer animals than anticipated on the project licence would be used because:

- Research focussed very quickly towards the kinases considered most important, reducing the number of experiments needed
- Publication of data was rapid and therefore additional experiments were not required
- Access was gained to a large database for human hearts that could be mined for information
- Actual severity was mild on average rather than moderate due to refinements and echocardiography for monitoring of heart function.

It was suggested that NC3Rs might be interested in the work undertaken on model use and refinement.

Action: [Redacted. Sec.40]

It was agreed that the proforma should be further revised to include extra questions in regard to the experience of animals on the study.

Action: [Redacted. Sec.40]

18/16 Communications

The following communication was received and noted:

- a) Home Office – Instructions for Establishments: Retrospective Assessment

18/17 Review of the Animal Research Policy

The AWERB received and noted the Animal Research Policy, which had last been reviewed in 2017. Members of AWERB, were asked to forward any further changes to the [Redacted. Sec.40].

18/18 Dates of meetings in the Session 2018-19

TBC