

AWERB Agenda May 6th 2025 meeting

The University of Edinburgh
Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body
Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986



Meeting of Edinburgh AWERB on Tuesday May 6th 10am via MS TEAMS

1. Apologies for absence, minutes approved

2. Matters Arising

PL28-24 update: Revised version has been sent back to review panel.

PL38-24 update: Revised version has gone back out to review panel. Comments have been collated, further reduction in the scope of the licence will be required.

BVS Roadshow: this week and next week.

3. **Presentation:** [REDACTED] manager on behalf of the Genetic Monitoring Working Group presented a report on MiniMUGA for examining background strains/substrains of mice.

3. (a) To consider and advise the Establishment licence holder (PEL) on new Project licence Applications

| | Comments | OUTCOME |
|---------|--|---|
| PL14-25 | Minor Points to be addressed <ul style="list-style-type: none">• NTS will need some technical language removed, and details better aligned with protocols.• Some tidying of protocols. Imaging not adequately described in protocols 2 and 3 | Approved subject to final sub-committee approval |
| PL15-25 | Minor Points to be addressed <ul style="list-style-type: none">• B&M protocol will need to be amended to the standard text• NTS contains a lot of identifiers that will need to be removed | Approved subject to final sub-committee approval |

(b) Amendments – for consideration by full committee:

- Amendment: Additional availability in [REDACTED] of PL10-24
- *For information only:* PPL transfer: A23-25

Applications submitted and considered by the amendment Sub-Committee

For information only

Approved:

A12-2, A16-25

Updates to the AWERB:

4. [REDACTED] Director report

- ASRU are actively recruiting 22 inspectors, there will be 3 new Regulatory Delivery Officers are being recruited that will support the inspectors. There will also be five senior managements positions.

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- In response applicants are now being asked to begin new applications 18 months before expiry of their current PPL.
 - AWERB training materials are being trialled with members of both AWERBs.
 - A document giving guidance on how to report animal research will be published imminently, please do contribute comments.
 - There were five strategic planning workshops with staff and scientists in April, a draft of the strategic plan will be distributed soon
 - [REDACTED] is collaborating with Estates to make savings for the University. Savings will undoubtedly be gained with three of our facilities being consolidated together
 - There is also a project to provide correct humidity directly to the cage, rather than the room.
5. **NVS update to the committee**
- Five SC18s since last AWERB meeting, these have all been dealt with appropriately.
6. **NACWO update to the committee**
- NACWOs have formed an inter-facility NACWO group and are meeting quarterly.
 - ERFs: many ERFs name specific room technicians to do particular procedures, it would be better to ask people to write [REDACTED] on an ERF rather than a particular named person since individual technicians are not always available.
 - Tube handling: There is a need for more training on non-aversive rodent handling. A meeting has been scheduled with trainers, NVSes and NTCOs.
 - **ACTION POINT:** NVS to draft statement around the expectation that everyone should use non-aversive handling, to be distributed by AWERB
7. **NTCO update to the committee**
- Potential [REDACTED] for PILh who has been conducting procedures [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED] AWERB discussed ways of making it harder for this to occur again.
 - Training in zebrafish facility is being redesigned. Practical induction, and all H&S and SOPs will be moved to sharepoint. schedule SOPs 1 pre and post day 5 to be aligned, and writing some new SOPs. Aiming for this to be in place by the start of the new academic year.
8. **HOLC update to the committee**
- Transitional Operating Model at ASRU will be active from December 2025. There is likely to be some disruption as a result of this. PPLh have been encouraged to submit renewals as soon as possible to avoid any possible disruption.
 - There is a HOLTIF meeting today, updates will follow
 - [REDACTED] roadshows are this and next week
 - Redacted AWERB minutes will soon be posted to our Animal Research page.
 - Animal use figures will also shortly be posted.
 - BVS have responded to an [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED] is meeting on 17th June
 - Request from [REDACTED] to supply [REDACTED] at pre-regulated stages.

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10. Retrospective review: reference PL21-24 (previous licence)
Minor amendments will be requested, but otherwise approved by AWERB

10. A.O.C.B

Date of next meeting: 27th May 2025 10am MS teams (TBC)