

AWERB Agenda May 27th 2025 meeting

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



Meeting of [REDACTED] AWERB on Tuesday May 27th 10am via MS TEAMS

1. **Apologies for absence and minutes approved**

2. **Matters Arising**

?

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

	Comments	Outcome
PL28-24	Minor Points to be addressed <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Typos need to be corrected• Some weight loss limits to be adjusted	Approved subject to final sub-committee approval
PL17-25	Minor Points to be addressed <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adverse effects need to be aligned with the severity of the protocols• The suitability of some controls and experimental design have been queried	Approved subject to final sub-committee approval
PL18-25	Minor Points to be addressed <ul style="list-style-type: none">• NTS needs editing to remove technical language• Protocols: local guidelines not mentioned, some steps had too much detail.• Adverse effects of GA lines need to be tailored to the newly added line• [REDACTED] of animals in some experiments might need further discussion/justification• Add in more details regarding refinements before end points	Approved subject to final sub-committee approval

Action: For non peer-reviewed/CRO applications, the committee has decided that there should be a second scientific reviewer, or the applicant should present at AWERB.

(b) **Amendments – for consideration by full committee:**

None

Applications submitted and considered by the amendment Sub-Committee

For information only

Approved:

A20-25

AWERB Agenda May 27th 2025 meeting

Updates to the AWERB:

4. **Director report**
 - AWERB training will be trialled in September/October
 - We are organising May 2026 LERU meeting.
 - We're also organising a Scotland-wide 3Rs meeting directly after the LERU meeting.
 - A new European database on replacement will be made available to everyone in September this year
5. **Deputy Director report (Facilities)**
 - Change in NACWOs coming up, this will mostly impact [REDACTED]. A face-to-face forum has been arranged for late June/early July to explain the changes to stakeholders
 - [REDACTED] is also experiencing staff changes. Two replacement grade 4 posts will be advertised soon.
 - [REDACTED] refurbishment is going ahead, with [REDACTED]. We're still in design phase, facility meeting today with the design team and some researchers.
 - Any acknowledgments by researchers of good work completed by technicians are always appreciated
6. **NVS update to the committee**
 - Seven SC18s submitted since last meeting, all have been dealt with as appropriate.
7. **NACWO update to the committee**
 - A meeting is being arranged to try and increase the consistency of non-aversive handling training, and non-aversive handling will shortly be included in our ScotPIL training.
8. **NTCO update to the committee**
 - Since the roadshow a number of people have responded regarding their training/competency in breeding of GA animals. The audit of training records continues, and will likely pick up more people who need to ensure their training is up-to-date.
 - Our [REDACTED] are due to be reaccredited this Summer. We're working with [REDACTED] university to update our ethics module.
 - We'll be adding non-aversive handling e-learning to our [REDACTED] training.
9. **HOLC update to the committee**
 - AWERBs have been very busy since the start of the year, we're already seeing the benefits of that, with no delayed licences since last year. Some licences have even been granted up to 5 months ahead of time, showing how hard it can be to get the timing right.
 - All the July licences that were expiring are now granted and in place.
 - Inspector has emailed to praise the quality of the licence that had been sent, in general we do send high quality applications.
 - One application was granted with no comments at all, which is highly unusual.
 - HOLTIF meeting planned for 9th June (HOLC has joined organising committee). ASRU have not confirmed attendance at this meeting yet
10. **Deputy Director report (Home Office and Vets)**
 - [REDACTED] Poultry facility closing by the end of July. Some lines will be moving to another facility.
 - [REDACTED] have been updating the guidance on the collection of additional blood in a clinical setting. We have sought guidance from HO on this. Currently with senior executive team and will be discussed with [REDACTED] AWERB soon
 - Non compliance due to a water bottle being missed when a breeding pair was set up. Management discussing what we could implement to prevent this happening again. Has been reported to HO.
 - Use of [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] have experience with using rats instead, and there has been work in developing in silico replacements. We think we should follow up and arrange something for the next AWERB.
 - [REDACTED] important point is there are plenty of replacements for these practicals – not certain that the practical is necessary at all. [REDACTED] was asked to investigate student feedback
 - [REDACTED]: there are alternative models, and he has student lab protocols for this.

AWERB Agenda May 27th 2025 meeting

- [REDACTED] is meeting with [REDACTED] this week and will get an update then and bring it to next AWERB.
- [REDACTED] was trialled at [REDACTED] but the results weren't good.

11. Presentation to AWERB: Regulated procedure analysis and numbers 2024

Data from 2024 will shortly be published on the outward facing Animal research web page.

Overall our numbers of animals have dropped

Poultry: no changes in breeding of GA lines increased numbers were used in a commercial setting and then released from the Act ie they weren't killed.

CW: Conversation about importing ZF since regulations were updated last September. Government response to protests has not been helpful.

[REDACTED] animals tested for every import and two extra generations raised, so hundreds of extra animals used for each line imported. As of now it's effectively impossible to import zebrafish.

Chair: Perhaps raise this with NC3Rs.

11. A.O.C.B

Date of next meeting: 19th June 2025 10am [REDACTED]