



The Roslin Institute Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body

Monday 27th May [REDACTED] /Microsoft Teams Hybrid option
Minutes

1. Attendance and apologies.

- Apologies: [REDACTED]

2. Minutes of last meeting:

- The AWERB committee minutes were accepted as true record of the previous meeting that took place on 28th April 2025.

Matters arising/Action points

- None tabled.

3. Presentations to the committee:

1, Additional availability project licence PL19-25 BR

The committee heard a short presentation on a renewal application related to disease challenges of salmonids, noted that the project licence [REDACTED]. The only protocols which will be used at Roslin will be **protocols 4 and 5**, both will need continued authority for the [REDACTED] at [REDACTED]

Protocols 6 and 7 will focus on [REDACTED] testing and will occur at a separate establishment these will not be used at [REDACTED].

A number of husbandry issues were discussed by the applicant including potential damage to fish via handling, this also mentioned measures to avoid and ameliorate these adverse effects.

Noted that monitoring is intensive and fish are monitored typically 4 times daily, where possible video monitoring will be used (not all facilities). Other potential adverse effects noted are skin ulceration issues and again regular monitoring is included in order to prevent this.

Questions to the applicant:

- *Are the exp models well established so that predictable harms are noted?* Most models are well understood and mortality rates detailed.
- *Can it be clarified if all pathogens are currently known in relation [REDACTED]* Not all but in those cases where not fully understood a severe severity limit will be applied.

Committee Discussion on application

- Some concerns noted on the mortality limits however noted the extensive wealth of experience of the applicant in relation to experience and monitoring..
- The main issues are to ensure that there is appropriate monitoring in place in relation to protocols 4 and 5.
- Approval subject to final sub-committee and final AWERB approval.

Action: summary of points conveyed to applicants with re-circulation to sub-committee once licence revised.

2. Presentation :TC

The committee heard a very interesting presentation from [REDACTED] on his proposed amendment A23-25. Changes include revision to include a new protocol to look at the impact of immunization on [REDACTED] exposure. The other part of the amendment will add blood sampling to an original amendment to use oxytetracycline (already approved)

The 3rd part of the amendment is to establish [REDACTED] infection using a natural model of infection (as opposed to injection), this is a very straightforward procedure and it works very well in cattle.

A further minor point is to add an organic solvent to the skin (alcohol) to determine whether this affects [REDACTED] attachment or delays it.

Questions

- Some discussion related to funding as there is some uncertainty on this, however this work could still be needed for other aspects of the PPL. Noted that other aspects of the protocol will still occur and no additional animals are required. In terms of harm benefit the harms are not likely to be increased.
- Vaccination studies: how long will circulating antibodies persist? Noted that this is a very unusual vaccine and there are some issues associated with this in terms of length of immunity which was very short.
- Funding is available for the [REDACTED] work and noted that these [REDACTED] cannot infect humans.

Comments

Happy to approve with revision to the first sentence in the non-technical summary.

3. Overseas Research applications for information only

approved

4. New PPL applications under consideration by the AWERB

none

Amendment applications under consideration by the AWERB:

[REDACTED] amendment A22-25

AWERB and Sub-committee approval given. **approved**

[REDACTED] amendment A23-25

AWERB and Sub-committee approval given subject to revision of 1 minor point previously noted. **approved**

5. Updates and Reports

- **BVS Director update:**
- **AWERB Training:** we are moving ahead with this, [REDACTED] is putting this together and making good progress.
- [REDACTED]: organizing the 2026 meeting [REDACTED] with a Scottish 3Rs day to be held on the [REDACTED].

- **Replacements:** database of replacements to be made available by September of this year.
- **NVS update:**
- Decommission of [REDACTED] still in progress, no concerns
- [REDACTED]: issue with cannulation study in one [REDACTED] not of major concern as cannula was lost slightly earlier and tissues still collected (not procedural).
- [REDACTED]: working at non restraint methods for sheep procedures which is a good refinement.
- Poultry tissues: some request for GA tissues to be taken which was approved for use [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Tissues are GA but carcasses are exempt and not classed as GA so this does not present any issues.
- [REDACTED] guidance on blood sampling for non regulated studies have been revised, this was circulated to relevant committees.
- **NTCO update:**
None tabled
- **PEL Holder update:**
 - None tabled
- **Edinburgh AWERB report:**
- Licences moving well no issues to report. Noted some recent licences granted well ahead of time.
- Licencing pilot of updates to Aspel: Edinburgh selected as a test establishment, further updates in due course.
- Refreshers went well and were well attended.
- **Reports from Facilities**
- **Farms/LARIF:**
 - Some new studies in place [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED] studies in place and going really well.
 - Antibody studies are now very limited ([REDACTED]).
 - [REDACTED] studies: looking at refinement studies artificial feeding system
 - [REDACTED] disease sampling: 230 animals sampled under the veterinary surgeons act, some blood also provided for scientific purposes.
 - One technician took up new post.
- **Poultry.**
- [REDACTED] decommissioning going well, very time consuming but no issues so far. Lines being frozen down where possible, some studies are still occurring and will continue as long as is possible. Some lines may be shipped to the [REDACTED] but not confirmed as of yet.
- [REDACTED] some staffing shortages and two members duties restricted due to pregnancy and will shortly go on maternity leave.
- **Chick embryo room:** no report.

- **Aquaculture Facility:** No concerns raised, facility running well. Consideration of additional availability application (reference PL23-25) for specific studies in [REDACTED]
- **Ethics, 3Rs and the culture of care:**

6. Project Licences *submitted* to Home Office since the last AWERB meeting

None

Project Licence amendments *submitted* to Home Office since the last AWERB meeting

None

7. A.O.C.B: none

Date of next meeting: 16th June 2025 [REDACTED] Hybrid option via MS teams 1pm.