

# AWERB Agenda AUGUST 19th 2025 meeting

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



Meeting of [REDACTED] AWERB on Tuesday August 19th 10am MS Teams

## 1. Apologies for absence and Approval of minutes (subject to removal of identifiers)

## 2. Matters Arising

- HOLC highlights an encouraging email from an ASRU inspector commending us on the quality of our licence applications and thanking us for our adherence to timelines. The committee would like to highlight this to project licence applicants, and would like to know the number of iterations undergone by [REDACTED] PPL applications compared to the national average, to emphasise why our processes actually save applicants' time overall. **Action point: dHOLC to compile statistics on this**
- PL12-25 licence application has now been submitted, thanks to all involved

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

	Comments	Outcome
PL22-25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Resubmission –Changes have been made, no major concerns, application ready for submission to ASRU</li></ul>	<b>Approved</b>
PL25-25	<b>Minor points to be addressed</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Monitoring needs added input</li><li>Could applicant consider 3Rs in relation to outcomes for male mice not required in this study – for instance mentioning usage of the 3Rs blackboard.</li><li>Reducing litter size is a model for perinatal effects – would this affect early life outcomes?</li></ul>	<b>Approved subject to final sub-committee approval</b>
PL26-25	<b>Minor points to be addressed</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>NTS – 3Rs sections need expansion and enhancement</li><li>Completion of EUROCC would be advantageous</li></ul>	<b>Approved subject to final sub-committee approval</b>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A score sheet could be considered in P4</li> </ul>	
PL27-25	<b>Minor points to be addressed</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3Rs section could be expanded in areas, and numbers checked</li> <li>NTS technical language needs to be removed</li> <li>Monitoring and humane endpoints should be reconsidered and tightened;</li> </ul>	<b>Approved subject to final sub-committee approval</b>

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

None

## **Applications submitted and considered by the amendment Sub-Committee** ***For information only***

### **Approved:**

A30-25, A32-25), A33-25, A34-25, A35-25, A38-25, A40-25, A43-25.

## **Updates to the AWERB:**

### **4. BVS Director – no report**

### **5. BVS Deputy Director report (Facilities)**

- ██████ audits: Almost all rodent facilities have been audited, aquatics will be next. Common themes: culture appeared very positive. The audit report is incredibly thorough, and we are working through the points raised.
- Facilities don't currently have one primary source for reading out humidity levels and temperatures. The building management system will be used for this, going forward. Technical issues with this are being worked on with estates.
- Deputy director (facilities) engaged with head of maintenance operations at Estates due to non-compliances ████████. Facility managers are going to be given wording that will help estates colleagues to understand the importance of urgent action when repairs are required.
- Two NACWO posts being advertised, this is a good career pathway for level 5 technicians.

### **6. NVS update to the committee**

- ██████ SC18s since last NVS report, mostly for single animals, all dealt with appropriately.

### **7. NACWO update to the committee**

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- Demolition ongoing, asbestos has been all removed. Vibration monitors remain, so far there haven't been any issues.
- Non-aversive handling in rodents: rollout continues. NACWO refresh staff knowledge by visits to all facilities. NC3Rs videos have been distributed to staff, and staff will be asked to complete mouse handling course. Session last week had good reception, with positive engagement by attendees

## 8. NTCO update to the committee – no report

## 9. HOLC update to the committee

- [REDACTED] new inspectors in post at ASRU. All communications so far have been extremely positive.
- Some licence applications have been granted quicker than expected. We will keep an eye on timelines for submissions to see if these should be adjusted, but will be kept the same for now.
- Thanks to everyone on the committee for their help and input around licence applications and amendments

## 10. BVS Deputy Director report (Home Office and Vets)

- [REDACTED] AWERB discussed the resubmission of a large, ambitious licence that will require more work before approval at AWERB.
- ASRU now have a system to link up potential NC reported at each establishment. We have submitted [REDACTED] in the last 6 months involving PIL holders doing procedures before PIL is granted, [REDACTED]. We are reviewing the systems involved and will look at what we can do to prevent this issue in the future. We will also be sending out a reminder to PPL holders and PIL holders.
- [REDACTED] mouse user group: presentation put together to review all the changes implemented. We will meet with the user group quarterly to discuss progress and feedback.
- Research culture day organised for [REDACTED] to review opportunities for improving interaction between the users and staff.

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## 11. The use of [REDACTED]: committee discussion

This was discussed in 2023, and a number of questions raised by the committee that we have not yet received answers to.

The committee cannot review this topic until the information we've requested is made available.

Action point: HOLC to continue liaising with those involved, and request a firm update before the next AWERB.

## 12. A.O.C.B

Refurbished [REDACTED]: If anyone would like to visit the refurbished animal facility on the top floor of the [REDACTED] then contact [REDACTED] who will arrange a tour before the next AWERB.

Date of next meeting: 30th September 2025 2.30pm MS Teams