



[REDACTED]

## The [REDACTED] Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021

2pm [REDACTED] Microsoft teams

### 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 the 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2020

3. Matters arising/Action points

- *Covid Pandemic:* Noted that the BVS website has a link for [REDACTED] and Avian users to provide anonymous feedback on the impact of the Covid Pandemic. Noted that some users may not have received the email sent in December 2020 Action: re-circulate the email to users **Completed**
- *GA Large animal PPLs:* consider a discussion group to discuss the use of GA PPLs going forward. Action: discussion group to be convened (ongoing) [REDACTED] to discuss with [REDACTED]

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

New Project licences

none

Amended Project licences

- A34-20: [REDACTED]
- A54-20: [REDACTED]

## 5. Project licence applications under consideration PL02-21 [REDACTED]

### Discussion points:

- **Outputs:** The committee discussed the outputs from the previous PPL which included several refinements to a number of techniques.
- **Benefits:** Noted that where other benefits have been realised but not published, efforts will be made to disseminate this information to the relevant audience (eg veterinary anaesthetic, critical care forums).
- **IP:** Discussion on intellectual property: noted that this has not been an issue in dealings with commercial companies.
- Noted that as the licence largely justifies experimental group sizes on the basis of pragmatic and ethical considerations with provision for iterative re-assessment as appropriate (rather than power calculations based on null hypothesis testing) – there will be opportunity to consolidate and learn from this experience going forward.
- **Funding:** it was noted that as this licence functions via a commercial rather than academic approach, the majority of the proposed work is currently funded via the commercial partners.
- **Publication of work:** noted that some work may not be published, for example some pilot work.

## 6. PPL amendments under consideration by the AWERB none

## 7. Ethics, 3Rs and the culture of care:

### Large animal:

[REDACTED] provided an update to the committee on how pipeline projects involving large animals are considered prior to AWERB review encompassing the 3Rs. A number of examples of refinements discussed are given below:

- [REDACTED]: continuous glucose monitoring has been introduced which allows essentially non-invasive assessment. Noted that this excellent example of refinement carries potential for allowing a number of measurements to be taken.
- Raised sleeping areas for pigs and increased environmental enrichment such as toys and pen size.
- The use of SC [REDACTED] as opposed to IM - reducing potential adverse effects.
- MHC typing program: refinements include only genotyping offspring from breeders with known MHC genotypes.
- Other improvements have been made in GA animal production to refine techniques including oocytes collected by ovum pick up, conducting IVF in-vitro.
- An additional refinement/reduction includes a tissue register and animal tissue sharing.

[REDACTED] liaison group: cameras have been purchased for monitoring of behaviour in some of the sheds. These are currently being used for pilot studies and going forward this may be the focus of a master's project to monitor behaviour and address issues such as pecking.

Leaders in Openness Awards: Noted that the University has been recognized as a leader in openness and received an award. Some examples include work at the RI such as working with school children, and public engagement workshops on animal research.

**8. Statistics and experimental design:** no report tabled

**9. NVS and NTCO update**

NTCO update:

- E learning course for quail is being investigated/developed currently. The committee were asked if anyone would like to input to this course with relevant information/images.

NVS update LA:

- Facilities are quiet currently
- Designation of [REDACTED]: awaiting final home office approval of the [REDACTED].

NVS update poultry:

- Isolators: no birds currently in isolators
- Camera installation within the facilities: this has been delayed because of Covid
- Poultry service license: to be split into 3 new licences

**10. PEL Holder update:** no report tabled.

**11. Reports from Facilities**

Farms & [REDACTED] update ([REDACTED]):

- 3 pig studies currently undergoing, other work currently in progress includes [REDACTED] work.
- Some current studies may move to [REDACTED] if still ongoing when the [REDACTED] opens. Risk assessments are being considered at present in the event of animals moving to this facility.
- [REDACTED]: landward have approached a PPL holder for filming purposes of work at [REDACTED], currently working with the press office and director to finalise matters. The episode of [REDACTED].
- Intruder on site: the female intruder has now been removed from the [REDACTED] site although returned following arrest. The police were alerted again via 999 and the intruder has not returned. Additional security has been placed on the building by way of restricting access.

Poultry ([REDACTED] and [REDACTED])

- [REDACTED]: no isolators are currently in use at the moment.
- **Health screens:** all clear
- **Breeding lines with moderate phenotype:** noted production of lines with moderate phenotype is being undertaken.

Avian egg facility:

- No report tabled

**Aquaculture facility updates:** no report tabled

**12. A.O.C.B:**

**Report from openness meeting [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]**

Points to consider from meeting:

1. **Review of PPLs:** the EU is encouraging more reflection on projects at key points in licences for example asking PPL holders to produce a report summarising the findings from the project licence in the same way as an NTS. Individual institutions could publish these locally and potentially externally.
2. Consider adding project licence numbers to PURE so that additional information, and related publications, could be cross linked.
3. Consider adding review of project licence outcomes at the conclusion of the licence to include reflections/benefits.
4. Examples from other establishments include: providing an updated NTS with updated numbers, reflection on progress of licence, publications etc and other relevant information.

**13. Date of next meeting:** 30th March 2pm, Microsoft Teams.