



The [REDACTED] Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2022 2pm  
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 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2022

3. Matters arising/Action points

[REDACTED] PPL (additional availability): this was discussed at a recent [REDACTED] facility meeting. It was noted that some aspects of the granted PPL appear to vary from the final version agreed with [REDACTED]. A revised version has been received from [REDACTED] which has been circulated to the committee for approval.

4. NVS update:

- [REDACTED]: Pecking: very good progress in this area, no further incidents of pecking have been noted.
- [REDACTED]: working on large animal SOPs with [REDACTED] (NTCO)

5. NTCO update: working on large animal SOPs with [REDACTED].

6. PEL Holder update: additional changes are happening at ASRU, both [REDACTED] have attended ASRU meetings to hear about these additional changes. A follow up meeting will be held on the 1<sup>st</sup> of March for PEL holders with the opportunity to ask questions this time. More details will be circulated when available.

7. Reports from Facilities

- **Farms** ([REDACTED]): some staff currently off/isolating with Covid. Heating issues in the [REDACTED] building which has caused some issue and relocation of some work (only lab work no animal work involved). **ExpStudies:** pig surgeries are ongoing with confirmed pregnancies, visits from external stakeholders to look at unit has went well. [REDACTED] calf work is going very well, this has involved several [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED] ([REDACTED]): Building works should be completed shortly. Asked estates to re-instate the water in the [REDACTED] should we need this as an overflow facility. Roof at [REDACTED] has some cracked tiles, these will be repaired.
- **Poultry** ([REDACTED]): [REDACTED]: currently one vacancy which will be recruited later in the year. In addition one technical vacancy however this is being filled by way of a current 2 day secondment which is going well, no current plans to recruit for this post (to be reviewed). Issues with air handling unit, problem with pressure which meant recorded temperature was higher than the actual temperature. Shed 1 being re-stocked with chicks as they come through following the deep cleaning schedule. Routine re-generation and breeding all on schedule, [REDACTED] work is ongoing and the 3<sup>rd</sup> line of the planned 7 has been [REDACTED] aim to complete work within the next 2 months. [REDACTED]: no staffing issues in this facility.

Issues with an autoclave which has been out of order for almost 3 weeks however engineers are currently on site and this should be completed 21/2/22. Delays to the repair have been caused by a shortage of parts and also issues with Covid. PGC injections are ongoing to create 2 lines for [REDACTED] work, a number of projects are underway and work is currently busy.

- **Chick Embryo room** – [REDACTED]: [REDACTED] has agreed to become NACWO for the avian flu room. Poultry health scheme: discussions underway about membership of this group which are complex, we will be updated on this in due course.
- **Aquaculture Facility** - [REDACTED]: Salmon project running, un-regulated procedures, facility is quiet currently.
- **Ethics, 3Rs and the culture of care**: we plan to include presentations on an aspect of a 3Rs development which will be included at meetings where there is space to do so

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

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

PPL transfer: [REDACTED] (approved)

10. **PPL amendments under consideration by the AWERB**

**A01-22** [REDACTED]: Some additional revisions have been identified which are detailed below, these comments will be returned for final revision and circulated to the AWERB for information, the amendment was approved subject to completion of the below changes.

- Add volumes of page administration to the amendment and a monitoring sheet.
- Rectal temperature: currently a requirement to monitor rectal temp twice daily, however once daily would be sufficient as increased monitoring can cause distress.
- Monitoring: added additional measures of adverse effects e.g. signs of systemic infection, increased and/or painful urination.
- Controls: some terminology needs to be revised, in some cases controls are actually sham animals as these will have procedures.
- Examination prior to procedures: some clarification on what this will constitute will be required.

**A07-22**: [REDACTED]

**Summary**: a very interesting presentation was delivered to the committee and this was well received, there were no further comments. It was noted that a great deal of background work had been put into this model which is demonstrated in the amendment, the committee were happy to approve this amendment subject to the revision of the very minor points raised by the committee.

**PL06-22**: [REDACTED]

This proposed work had been previously presented to the committee in conjunction with work on the transgenic large animal licence.

**Summary**: the revisions will be made and the updated licence circulated to the committee for final approval.

**Main comments**:

1. PPL wording: some revision of wording and clarification of terms is required, specifically in the NTS (e.g. Doxyclyline).
2. Benefits: the benefits should be clearly stated at the start of the project rather than at a later stage where it is not so apparent.
3. NVS advice: some changes to the wording when NVS advice should be revised in the text of the licence.
4. Animal numbers: the number of pigs required and the rationale for the group sizes is not completely clear within the application.
5. Skin biopsy: clarification is required in terms of which licence the skin biopsy will be carried out under, current understanding is that this will be performed under the LA transgenic licence.

6. [REDACTED] expression: clarify the time period for expression of [REDACTED] following doxycycline administration as this is not clearly described. In addition, there may be variations in expression between piglets and more work may be described in terms of doxycycline [REDACTED].
7. Biopsies: clarification is required as to whether the biopsy will also look at microvasculature structure in addition genotyping. The current understanding is that this genotyping would occur on the LA transgenic breeding licence. Further clarification is required in this licence about the aims of the biopsy for studying the microvasculature.

**11. Overseas research applications**

OS9-21 [REDACTED]: approved subject to the revision of comments detailed, to be recirculated to the committee for final approval

OS2-22 [REDACTED]: approved, the committee noted that these animals were not captured from the wild, request that evidence of local ethical approval is presented.

**12. A.O.C.B: [REDACTED] amendment:** the committee discussed the revised version of the currently granted PPL, no objections to the revised version (with the additions) were raised

**13. Date of next meeting:** 21<sup>st</sup> March 2pm, Microsoft Teams.