



The [REDACTED] Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body

Monday 21st March 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 22nd February 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]. Action closed: the amendment has been approved.

4. NVS update:

- [REDACTED]: 2 final year students have been shadowing the vets for the last month, this has been very successful. Mini projects involving poultry and environmental enrichment work with a new colony of [REDACTED] were undertaken. Modifications to wash bays, and drainage infrastructure have been completed in the poultry facility. It was noted that [REDACTED] is leaving her post in May, her excellent input to the committee was highlighted and gratefully acknowledged.
- [REDACTED]: a post mortem examination of a pregnant ewe ([REDACTED]) which was found dead, identified a non-procedural harm (over-activity of foetus) as the likely cause of death. [REDACTED]: [REDACTED] neonatal piglet suffered a haemorrhage during the procedure and was schedule 1 culled immediately. An additional study had to be stopped early as a consequence of Covid isolation requirements. Whilst the desired scientific endpoint was not reached, the study did furnish useful imaging data. A further condition 18 will be submitted in relation to the death of a pig destined for use in studies towards optimizing [REDACTED]. Noted that SOPs are currently being developed and reviewed.

5. NTCO update: a personal licence course held last week attracted 66 attendees (rodent) and a further scheduled large animal course is also very well subscribed. Noted that many attendees are coming from out-with the University. The possibility of setting up an avian egg course is being explored.

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 was held on the 1st of March for PEL holders with the opportunity to ask questions this time. We are anticipating updated guidance shortly which will be circulated when available.

7. Reports from Facilities

- **Farms** (): calves which have been genotyped have now moved to . A dairy unit manager has been recruited and will be in post shortly. This individual will also undertake personal licence holder training in order to assist with studies in due course. Following a successful interview a stockperson has been identified, who has been offered and accepted the role.
- (): Building works should be completed shortly. Drainage work is ongoing, engineers on site last week but no feedback as of yet. Some issues with the drainage in the containment suite, original plans did not account for high water table at , engineers have confirmed that lining with fiberglass should be possible. Covid is presenting many challenges at the moment with many staff currently isolating at the moment or have developed Covid. **Studies:** studies are nearing completion. Other work includes studies in cattle and the study is planned for late May. Noted that the facility is currently very busy and there are plans to appoint additional technical staff and possibly also . This will assist when staff are on annual or sick leave. Also planning to advertise an animal research imager for to complement an existing staff member.
- **Poultry** ()- : Some pecking noted in the white leghorns will be tackled through implementation of enrichment measures and also intervention, considering when aggression occurs. CPX line: post mortem examination of one remaining hen which had been culled due to cessation of laying, did not identify any underlying pathology. An student is due to attend the facility in order to gain experience. : Health screens, some repeat screens being conducted, there are no concerns however. Although some progress with resolving the autoclave issues has been made, problems still remain and will be the subject of further investigation. Fortunately access to an available backup has been identified. knockout lines, no issues currently observed.
- **Chick Embryo room** – (): no issues to currently report in the facility
- **Aquaculture Facility** - (): expanding staff training at the facility, some enquires from outside to potentially use the facility. The current PPL has been transferred from temporarily, an amendment to extend how long fish can be maintained has been submitted to the home office.
- **Ethics, 3Rs and the culture of care:** a culture of care questionnaire has been developed and will be circulated shortly to the AWERBs for consideration.

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

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

PPL amendment ()

10. New PPL applications under consideration by the AWERB

PL12-22: ()

() presented the work of his new training PPL to the AWERB, questions were detailed as below:

1. **Transport of animals:** this needs to be clarified in terms of the number of animals that will be used for each training day. Currently 1 animal is planned, however a back up animal would be available. Options to avoid bringing the reserve animal into the facility, unless specifically required, should be explored.
2. **Stem cells:** some clarification of the location of the injected cells and the degree of accuracy required. It was noted that a 3 D image is produce under fluoroscopy to optimise accuracy.

Summary: the committee were happy to approve the PPL application subject to consideration of the main comments detailed below

Main comments:

3. Noting that proposed animal numbers should be influenced by experience gained from the previous licence, some further detail on the justification of numbers is required.
4. Harm benefit analysis: some additional details could be included into the licence application, it is clear that there are huge benefits to this work.
5. Consider whether there are artificial/ex-vivo options for this work e.g. artificial heart or ex-vivo organ models incorporating movement which could be useful in the context of

optimizing training. Noted that such systems of training involving the use of live animals are rare.

6. Feedback on potential ex-vivo systems could be obtained.

PL10-22: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] presented the work of her new PPL to the committee a summary of the main comments are detailed below.

Summary: the committee were happy to approve the PPL application subject to consideration of the very minor comments detailed below.

1. Time of day for blood sampling: this would be in early morning as standard.
2. Doses of [REDACTED] confirmed that these doses do mimic natural infection but at a lower level and would not induce clinical disease.
3. Monitoring regimes: where animals are anticipated to potentially reach moderate severity banding monitoring will be twice a day using clinical scoring sheets – this frequency informed by the PI's experience with the model.
4. Male Calves: the use of Holstein Friesian male calves was noted and a justification for any sex bias in design would require to be included.
5. The use of restraint to facilitate interventions (eg bronchoscopy) in a limited number of older calves was discussed. Noted that implementation of protocols considered novel in the context of recent experience within [REDACTED] should reflect the input of the NVS and relevant local expertise eg in animal handling, anaesthesia and sedation.

11. Amendments:

A06-22 [REDACTED]

The committee were happy to approve the amendment subject to the consideration of the review points detailed below.

- Additional clarification of the work at the POLE is needed, clarify that this will only involve bleeding
- The "fate of the animals" should only state "Set free/re-homed". The additional information copied and pasted from protocol 1 is not appropriate and should be replaced with the provided text.
- The justification for collecting blood samples at POLEs to validate [REDACTED] should be provided.

A19-22: [REDACTED]: Approved subject to consideration of the review points, noted that this amendment has not been added to the new PPL and it is hoped that this will be in place by late spring.

A24-22: [REDACTED] **Approved:** the committee were happy to approve this urgent amendment which is to extend the holding time for salmon within the aquaculture facility.

12. PEL holder update: Regarding Home Office changes to regulation implemented on 5th July 2021, based on mitigating the risk of regulatory capture and to ensure that more consistent advice across establishments was given. Noted the lack of consultation with stakeholders.

1. Noted that quarterly meetings have been convened with all PEL holders.
2. Audits have been suspended without delay, only 15 have been completed out of a possible 137. This means only a very small number of establishments have been visited.
3. Delays: real concerns over the delays in licences, potentially being extended to a 9 month submission deadline.
4. A letter signed by a number of PEL holders in relation to concerns over the new ways of working has been submitted to the Minister for Science.
5. New guidance has been delayed, originally end of February, further delays have been experienced to this now anticipated by end of April.

13. Date of next meeting: 25th April 2pm, Microsoft Teams.