



The Roslin Institute Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body

Monday 23rd May 2022 [REDACTED] and Microsoft teams Hybrid
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 25th April 2022

3. Matters arising/Action points

AWERB: a survey of the preferred meeting format has been carried out and a summary of the information will be circulated to the committee at a later date.

4. NVS update:

- [REDACTED]: Some technical/instrumentation issues with two studies noted, these have now been resolved, no welfare issues were encountered and data still available.
- [REDACTED]: noted that a proposed study involving horses will be brought for consideration to the Roslin AWERB later in the summer.
- [REDACTED]: plans of a proposed new study involving sheep that carry a naturally occurring mutation associated with neurodegeneration were discussed. Should the opportunity arise to study these animals on site, a project licence application will be produced.
- **New NVS:** a new NVS with 2 years of laboratory animal training and experience in poultry and small animals has been appointed. The post will commence on the 1st August.
- **Poultry:** there are no substantive issues to report, facilities have been relatively quiet. [REDACTED]. [REDACTED]. The reasons for continued low titre positivity are being explored.

5. NTCO update: preparing for the roadshow the first of which will be held tomorrow.

Refresher training: a learn course has been set up for refresher training for PIL holders, this should go live in September. Also noted that PIL holders will be encouraged to attend the [REDACTED] ([REDACTED]), as some researchers have mentioned that they would like assistance with for example power calculations which is covered in this course.

6. PEL Holder update: A collective letter has been sent to a government peer in relation to concerns over recent changes to ways of working with the home office, and the noted reduction (~50%) in numbers of HO inspectors. A recent FOI request for AWERB minutes will be addressed through their publication (following any necessary redaction identifying individuals) on the website. The data on the return of procedures has been circulated for information to the committee.

7. Project licence application: PL20-22.

This application aims to mitigate some of the consequences of treating [REDACTED] which is associated with [REDACTED] and other genetically inherited conditions. Currently the main treatments are [REDACTED]. This project will investigate the use of [REDACTED]. The initial studies will focus on cadavers, then non-recovery animals followed by recovery studies. Adverse effects and their mitigation are being considered. These effects may include haemorrhage associated with failed instrumentation. Approved for submission subject to addressing review comments

8. **Reports from Facilities**

- **Farms** ([REDACTED]) fully staffed, no significant issues at the present time.
- [REDACTED] ([REDACTED]): Building works should be completed shortly. A number of studies are ongoing and the facility is busy.
- **Poultry** ([REDACTED]) - contingencies are being put in place to mitigate the consequences of worldwide problems with grain supply.
- **Chick Embryo room** – no report tabled .
- **Aquaculture Facility** - [REDACTED]: Considering alternative ways for conducting disease challenge studies. Whilst in future such studies are envisaged at Roslin, appropriate training and changes to the PPL will be required. A deputy replacement has been appointed.
- **Ethics, 3Rs and the culture of care:** noted that the 3Rs prize winners will be mentioned at the BVS annual Home Office Roadshow on 24/05/22. .

9. **Statistics and experimental design:** a meeting between the AWERB statistician, AWERB chair and NVS was held in which agreement was reached over how best to incorporate their input going forward. The NVS will identify and forward those study request forms requiring expert statistical appraisal. Encouraging study designers to engage with such expert advice at an early juncture is seen as a priority.

PPL review: a list of commonly identified issues relating to study design will be communicated to applicants when they are commencing their drafts.

Study request forms (large animals): the timescale for appraising study requests for both rodent/fish and large animals is being reviewed.

ACTION: remove statistics as a standing item from the agenda: complete

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

PL06-22

PL12-22

PL17-22

11. **New PPL applications under consideration by the AWERB**

PL20-22: awaiting final sub-committee approval

12. **Amendments:** none

13. **Non-regulated proposal:** the committee noted that the proposed scheme of work does not involve procedures regulated under ASPA. The committee appreciates provision of the project proposal for information purposes, and recognises the potential benefits the work may accrue. The committee determines that the proposed work poses no substantive ethical issues that would preclude it being forwarded to the HO for approval. Action: a response to VERC indicating the above. Action [REDACTED] to invite the applicant to the committee to give some discussion on the project.

14. **Overseas research:** OS5-22

1. [REDACTED]
2. What happens to the animals at the end of the study?
3. Not a great deal of information on the current study, however the committee felt this would be approved in the UK, and justified.
4. No issues with reputational issues.

The AWERB were happy to approve this study subject to obtaining evidence of ethical review in the host country.

15. AOB: Away day will be held on the 21st June at the [REDACTED].

16. Report from Central AWERB: we considered an overseas research proposal involving [REDACTED], this was approved and a letter submitted to the applicant

17. **Date of next meeting:** June 27th 2pm, [REDACTED]