



## Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Board (AWERB) Minutes 3/09/2020

### The University of Edinburgh

### Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986

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Minutes of the Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body held 11/08/2020

*Microsoft Teams*

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1. **Welcome** The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending,
  2. **Attendance and Apologies**– please see separate sheet
  3. **Minutes of Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> August 2020: approved**
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#### 4. **Matters arising and action point summary**

- **AWERB video:** requested that these be submitted as soon as possible. **Action:** ongoing [redacted]/AWERB video clips to be submitted.
- **AWERB security document:** re-circulated electronically for final approval **Action:** [redacted] complete approved 3/9/2020.
- **Confidentiality documents:** these are awaiting final approval and will then be circulated to both AWERBs for signatory: **Action:** [redacted]: complete

#### 5. **Named person and Director updates**

##### **Directors update:**

- **Staff:** recognised that staff may have anxiety in relation to Covid-19 and the current impact of the pandemic, a communication from BVS director will be sent out to re-assure staff during this current crisis.
- **Compliance:** potential non-compliance incident, the committee will be updated at the next AWERB meeting on 6/10/20.

##### **Deputy Directors update:**

- **Estate:** water ingress at the [redacted] during the recent storms, currently working with estates to resolve this.
- [redacted]: noted that good progress has been made with the air handling unit.
- **Wild-type forms:** on-line documents have been produced and will be shortly rolled out to users in some facilities.
- **Facility forums:** these are currently being organised and users will be informed shortly.
- **Feedback:** some very positive feedback has been received from users about the BVS teams; including a specific article in a recent newsletter.
- **Local lockdown/Second Wave:** contingency planning in place in the event of a local lockdown or a second wave is currently in progress.



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### NVS update

- **Minor incidents:** two incidents have occurred following the return to research, these have been discussed with the inspector and the outcome is awaited.
- **Imports:** currently experiencing some issues with this due to additional restrictions causing delays, advising that imports and exports should only be undertaken unless essential
- **Photographic policy:** Consider a review of the photographic policy to take into account the use of photography for veterinary examination of animals. Suggest that a reminder of the photographic policy is sent to all users.
- **GA appendices:** the process of obtaining GA appendices has been updated with a simple web form for users to complete and update.

### NACWO update:

- **Face masks:** noted that techs and researchers feel much more confident if people are wearing them in corridors etc.
- **Researchers:** Noted that researchers have been very compliant, all going well. A number of questions and queries from researchers but no issues to report.
- **Wild-type requests:** these new forms will be rolled out in [REDACTED], asking that researchers give plenty of notice for this so that animals can be organised.

### NTCO update

- Training is being developed and implemented under limited circumstances.

## 6. Project licences under consideration:

### PL19-2020

This project licence is a renewal from an experienced group leader with the aims to understand [REDACTED] In general all the reviewers were very supportive of the work of the application and noted that this was a good quality application.

- **Numbers:** Noted that the numbers are high but these have been estimated from the previous PPL.
- **TG breeding protocols:** need to consider if all these production protocols are required, some of these techniques could be performed on the service licence. Strongly suggest that these protocols are removed if not required. Generally these can only be included if they are justified scientifically.
- **NTS:** some revision is required in terms of terminology to make lay etc, there is no mention of the ARRIVE guidelines.

### PL20-2020

This project licence is a renewal from a group leader which focuses on [REDACTED] in the Zebrafish. There are a number of issues with the PPL and it was



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agreed to return it to the AWERB for further review and approval. A summary of the main comments are detailed below:

- **3Rs section:** The 3Rs section has been written with little care or attention and appears rushed.
- **Severity:** As the severity has been reduced on this renewal from the last PPL, this should be highlighted. Refinements in post-operative care should be highlighted.
- **Experimental design section:** More detail on the experimental design section beyond saying "I have been on courses..." could be included.
- **Protocol 1:** More detail should be provided in the protocols section on potential harms as this has been poorly described. In addition information on pilot studies is not sufficient. The mortality rate of 5% within this protocol requires revision and is likely to be too high for the moderate severity assigned.
- **Protocol 3 (Breeding and maintenance):** this should be revised to provide general details of transgenic lines in the context of mutation or transgene rather than just listing strains,

### PL21-2020

This project licence renewal is from an experienced researcher and has been very well written, the committee were happy to support the application and agreed that it could be submitted to the home office for approval.

- **Specific models:** Some additional justification of models is required but otherwise the action plan is really well written.
- **Killing steps:** Schedule 1/Non-Schedule 1 techniques need to be added as a step to some protocols.
- **Blood sampling:** need to clarify how long blood sampling will be carried out for.
- **Single housing:** some concerns over this, consider the use of divided cages for these studies, these have been used in [REDACTED] and should be considered.
- **NTS:** a lot of acronyms have been used here, perhaps this could be made clearer. Explain what calorific restriction is

**Amendment applications submitted to the full AWERB:** None

**Sub-committee amendment applications:** Approved: A41-20

### 7. Arrive guidelines

The committee heard a very interesting presentation from [REDACTED] on the revised ARRIVE guidelines, a link to the revised guidelines is detailed below.

<https://arriveguidelines.org/>

8. **2<sup>nd</sup> Wave planning:** discussions are underway with the senior University team to consider researchers as essential workers in the event of a second wave, a document is being produced and will be considered by the AWERB for comments.



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**9. Online security and confidentiality documents:**

Security document: *approved*

Confidentiality documents: pending final approval and submission to committee members for signatory.

**Date of next Meeting: 6<sup>th</sup> October 2020 10am MS teams**