



Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Board (AWERB) Minutes 15/12/2020

The University of Edinburgh

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

Minutes of the Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body held 15/12/2020

Microsoft Teams

1. **Welcome** The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending,
 2. **Minutes of Meeting held on 3rd November 2020: approved**
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3. **Matters arising and action point summary**

AWERB video clips: recognised that this had not progressed but would become part of the wider discussion re improving AWERB visibility in 2021 **Action: ongoing** [REDACTED] to discuss

- **New home office inspector:** the new home office inspector is now in post and working closely with our existing inspector.
- **Commercial licence control:** the committee discussed the production of an annual report for individual commercial licences going forward. **Action:** [REDACTED] to implement

4. **Named person and Director updates**

Directors update:

1. **New home office inspector:** the new HOI is now in post, he will work closely with the existing inspector
2. **PEL holder:** The new [REDACTED] will take over the PEL early in 2021 and is currently training for the role.
3. **Potential Non-compliance:** the committee were made aware of an incident where a PPL holder failed to report an incident where severity had been exceeded (standard condition 18). **Action:** project licence currently being amended and investigation being completed

Deputy Directors update:

- **On call system:** licence holders/researchers will be reminded to call the NVS on call for issues with research animals. For facility related matters over extended Christmas break University security numbers have been provided and they will be able to direct the call to the relevant people.
- **Estates:** funding for [REDACTED] refurbishment has been approved by Estates Committee and will be undertaken next year, there will be some disruption but hopefully this will be kept to a minimum
- [REDACTED]: additional funding approved by Estates Committee to keep the facility running for 2 years.

NVS update



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- **Mites:** treatment in affected facilities has been successful.
- **On call rota:** this will commence next week, some studies are ongoing but these have been kept to a minimum.
- **Exports:** the last export will go today (15/12/20), there are no plans to import animals until later in the New Year due to concerns over Brexit changes.

NACWO update:

- **Training:** NACWO refresher training carried out via zoom which went very well.
- **Male aggression:** studies carried out in collaboration with a commercial company demonstrated that siblings in small groups worked well, there could be some additional cost for this as groups are smaller. May do further collaboration in this area

NTCO update

- **Scotpil:** additional rodent course carried out with excellent support from technical staff to complete handling assessments .
- **Accreditation:** noted that the new online course has been accredited (and commended) with no changes required.

5. Project licences under consideration:

PL33-2020

This project licence is a renewal from an experienced group leader the application has four protocols, the licence has been very well written with no major issues identified.

Summary: The application was considered to be well justified and approved subject to the revision of the minor points detailed below:

- **Numbers:** clarify the numbers required for breeding and maintenance these seem quite low.
- **Protected stages:** clarify why this needs to be detailed in the application as a large amount of work will be carried out in fish before protected stages.
- **Fecundity in fish:** clarify the timescale for replacement of breeding populations of fish.
- **NTS:** generally very well written but in some places the language is overly technical. The section concerned with severities and impact need to be explained in more detail.

PL34-2020

This project licence is a renewal from an experienced group leader/reader which focuses on [REDACTED] it was noted that this was a well written application but would benefit from additional justification of the new severe protocol and additional editing of the NTS.

Summary: The committee were happy to approve the application subsequent to the revision of the AWERB review summary and following points:

- **Funding:** more detail is required on funding level as currently this is quite vague.



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- **NTS:** very well written and not overly complex, the NTS was described “as a pleasure to read” by the lay member. This could be a useful example for future applications.
- No further comments but noted that this was an extremely well written application.

PL35-2020

This project licence renewal is from a new PPL applicant, the aim of the project is to look at the [REDACTED]. The application has been generally well written but there are some improvements required before submission to the Home Office can be considered.

Summary: The committee were happy to approve the application subsequent to the revision of the AWERB review summary and following points:

- **Objectives:** these are very general however, this may be more related to the contract research nature of the work.
- **Justification for GA animals:** this needs to be expanded in much more detail.
- **Commercial nature of work:** recognised that there is only so much detail that can be given in relation to the work itself.
- **Therapeutic intervention:** it was not clear how long these interventions will last for, some clarification is required.
- **Commercial licence control:** the committee discussed the production of an annual report for commercial licences going forward. It was noted that much of the control of these licences will be done via ERFs with the recognition that work is dependent on results obtained in previous separate studies.
- **Humane endpoints:** noted that in places endpoints should be clearer.
- **Protocols:** Noted that experimental protocols within the application are standard within the university.

Summary: consider that an annual report and presentation are given to the AWERB, [REDACTED] to action.

PL36-2020

This application is a renewal application from an experienced researcher/PI. The review panel noted that this was a very well written application.

Summary: The committee were happy to approve the application subsequent to the revision of the AWERB review summary and following minor points:

- **Severe protocol:** the review panel asked for clarification and rationale for the severe limit in protocol 4 as this was not clear. Consider if this protocol could be moderate with adjustments to endpoints.
- **Grammar:** the application should be checked carefully for spelling and grammatical mistakes.
- **NTS:** The non-technical summary was extremely technical and must be revised.

Summary: approved subject to addressing the above points.



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PL37-20: [REDACTED] :

This is a renewal application from a clinician scientist and has generally been well written, some additional justification is required within the application in terms of the science involved.

Summary: The committee were happy to approve the application subsequent to the revision of the AWERB review summary and following points:

- **Reduction section:** Rationale for reduction relating to use of different species does not appear to be justified, this should be removed.
- **Objectives:** some of the objectives are overly long and read more like a justification, this should be revised.
- **Protocols:** For all protocols – ensure there is consistency/clarity with endpoints related to weight bearing post-procedures
- **Protocol 4 and 5:** Scientific justification – Ensure justification for both rats and mice, why different fracture methods and stabilisation methods. This section refers to novel methods of imaging and cell tracking which is quite vague.
- **Terminology:** change “sacrificed” to “humanely killed”.

6. **a. Amendment applications submitted to the full AWERB:**
Additional Availability application: PL38-20 [REDACTED] : approved

Applications submitted and considered by the amendment Sub-Committee

Approved: A55-20 [REDACTED], A57-20 [REDACTED], A60-20 [REDACTED]

7. **Retrospective reviews:**

RR03-20 ([REDACTED]): approved: subject to expansion of the replacement section.

RR04-20 ([REDACTED]): approved: noted that this had been well written and included good detail of refinements during the course of the project.

8. **A.O.C.B:** none

Date of next Meeting: 26th January 2021 10am MS teams