

AWERB Minutes January 2024 meeting

The University of Edinburgh
Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body
Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986



Meeting of Edinburgh AWERB on Tuesday 30th January 2024

1. **Apologies for absence and Minutes of November/December meeting Approved**
2. **No matters arising**
3. **3. Presentation:** the committee heard a very interesting presentation on the pathology and treatment of lysosomal and related diseases and brain tumours. The presentation involved a description of the work contained in the currently granted PPL and also included details of translational work and clinical trials.

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4. **To consider and advise the Establishment licence holder (PEL) on new Project licence Applications:**

PL 01-24: Approved for submission subject to revision of very minor changes detailed below.

- More details required on proposed food restriction appropriate to the species
- SCh1 methods: animals should be released after the studies however some clarification on methods of humane killing should this be necessary.
- Clarify whether some of the studies constitute re-use or continued use.
- Numbers: previous work has identified attrition rate however it will be important to ensure that sufficient numbers are included (a slight increase was suggested).

PL 02-24 Approved for submission subject to revision of relatively minor revisions.

- Protocols: clarify if transfer of pregnant animals to protocol 2 will occur.
- Clarify whether re-use or continued use is required for certain protocols.
- Protocol 3: no mention of direct Intra-tracheal exposure. Needs to include details of numbers of exposures that will occur.
- Research focus is very timely and appropriate, only minor comments in relation to the PPL.

PPL transfer/additional availability [REDACTED]

- Clarify current and future studies that will be conducted at [REDACTED] and the timeline for this
- Return the PPL for additional review to check that current techniques are aligned with those at [REDACTED]

(b) Amendments – for consideration by full committee:

A68-23: approved for submission subject to the revision of some additional minor points, this will not require further submission to the committee.

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Applications submitted and considered by the amendment Sub-Committee

Approved:

A79-23, A80-23, A82-23

Updates to the AWERB:

5. **BVS director report:**
 - Survey is being circulated to scientists to ask about our services and to identify any extra support we can provide.
 6. **BVS deputy director update to the committee**
 - Senior facility manager is now in place at the [REDACTED].
 - Facility forums: noted that attendance is very poor, some forums had no scientists attending at all.
 - Cage/tank blindness: a refresher training has been implemented to ensure that cage checks are not missed. Training focused on issues that may occur and this will be added to the SOP for guidance, input from techs/NACWOs has been very helpful.
 7. **NVS update to the committee**
 - Condition 18 reports submitted: one was specific to a potential failure of equipment.
 - Biosecurity audit at [REDACTED] to consider overall issues and specifically in relation to recent issues with NSG lines
 8. **NACWO update to the committee**
 - Noted some pre-weaning losses, working with vets and researchers to try to establish cause of this. Post-mortem and pathology is being conducted and enhanced monitoring in place.
 - Biosecurity audit: this was a very positive experience for all concerned. Will await the report and outcomes.
 8. **NTCO update to the committee**
 - January has been a relatively quiet month so far. Focusing on preparing an accredited module for humane killing.
 - CPD training: a new teams page has been produced for CPD and details and resources will be uploaded there.
 9. **HOLC update to the committee**
 - Returns are almost complete and submitted for 2023, presentations delivered to PPL holders and one to one support offered.
 - Attended HOLTF meeting, many similar issues reported throughout the regulated community. Follow up meeting with ASRU where concerns will be shared.
 10. **BVS Deputy Director (Vets/home office) [REDACTED] AWERB report**
 - Potential non-compliance has been reported involving ZF, awaiting any feedback from ASRU.
 - Roslin AWERB: potential sheep work on the PPL for transfer is subject to funding being available.
 - Renewal of the [REDACTED] sheep flock, no issues raised and noted that there are no welfare issues here. Very good presentation given to the [REDACTED] AWERB. Committee raised no issues to this.
 - Position available research data officer: work with PPL to reconcile returns and tick@lab information.
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13. A.O.C.B

Next meeting: Tuesday February 27th 10am