

AWERB Minutes September 2024 meeting

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



Meeting of [REDACTED] AWERB on Tuesday 24th September 10am MS teams

1. Apologies for absence and August meeting minutes approved
2. Matters Arising
3. Presentation to the committee

PPL holder gave a fascinating talk about [REDACTED], which gave rise to an interesting discussion around welfare assessments, [REDACTED] and public engagement

3. (a) To consider and advise the Establishment licence holder (PEL) on new Project licence Applications

PL27-24 (renewal)	<p>The committee approves this subject to subcommittee agreement after revision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• NTS needs further work and removal of technical language• Animal experience sections need expansion, particularly with regards to showing cumulative harm• Background needs to be expanded and a better justification of animal numbers is needed
PL28-24 (renewal)	<p>Approval will be provided upon resubmission to full AWERB with full consideration of the feedback provided. Due to time restrictions for the renewal, AWERB approval may be granted by email</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Formal experimental design training would be an advantage• Protocols require more work, monitoring details are lacking, termination steps are not always in the correct place, adverse effects lacking in protocol 3• Humane endpoints need revision• Benefits and harms in NTS should be made clearer• Timelines of funding should be added• Scientific background is difficult to read and needs some revision• A flow diagram would be very helpful in the action plan

(b) Amendments – for consideration by full committee:
None tabled

Applications submitted and considered by the amendment Sub-Committee

Approved:
A48-24, A57-24

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Updates to the AWERB:

4. **BVS Director report**

- External audits will begin in November or December this year and will look at all aspects of husbandry, management and Home Office-related work. There will be time management analysis to improve efficiency. We do not yet know which facility this will focus on but all staff will be advised in good time.
- We have generated the first draft of a document to help scientists drafting their ethical statements. The draft will soon be distributed to AWERB for review.
- A [REDACTED] communications policy is also in development to harmonise communications across all parts of the department
- [REDACTED] offices have also recently moved to a new location

5. **BVS Deputy director (facilities) update to the committee**

- No report

6. **NVS update to the committee**

- Six SC18s this month, mostly regarding single animals. All have been recorded and appropriate action taken.

7. **NACWO update to the committee**

- There is interest in expanding the [REDACTED] colony to another facility.
- The newest facility is now on auto watering, which has been running for a month.

8. **NTCO update to the committee**

- The first PIL course of the term has started with 65 attendees.

9. **HOLC update to the committee**

- Attended a meeting in London as NIO. The role was created by ASPA, the NC3Rs are now having a focus on this role and looking at ways it could be better used and better promoted. Most NIOs also hold multiple other named roles, so time is a major limiting factor.
- We continue to be extremely busy with licences. Thanks extended to all the reviewers.

10. **BVS Deputy Director (Vets/home office) Roslin AWERB report**

Incident to report of a [REDACTED] which will be reported to the HO. The user involved hasn't yet been identified.

[REDACTED] update – [REDACTED]
[REDACTED].

AWERB: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Action point: [REDACTED]

11. A.O.C.B

Regarding confidentiality of AWERB: the chair reminded us that for the integrity of the AWERB process, the content of the discussions held at AWERB meetings must be kept confidential. Terms of reference are being updated and will shortly be distributed to members of the committee.

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Date of next meeting: 24th October MS Teams