

# AWERB Minutes October 2024 meeting

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



Meeting of [REDACTED] AWERB on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October 10am MS teams

1. Apologies for absence and September minutes approved
2. No Matters Arising

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

PL29-24 (renewal)	<p><b>Committee will approve subject to applicant addressing the following points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Benefits section needs to be strengthened</li><li>• NTS has several sections that need expansion, rewording and/or too much technical language – replacement and refinement are two examples.</li><li>• One protocol should be changed from moderate to mild</li><li>• Action plan should be SMARTer</li></ul>
PL30-24 (new)	<p><b>Committee approves subject to applicant's response to subcommittee comments.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Numbers are ambitious and applicant should consider revising these</li><li>• NTS requires more information of justification on using mice. If they're just being a comparison, some discussion of why they can't use historical data or something else.</li><li>• Holding conditions have been discussed with HO as the code of practice rules aren't really suitable for [REDACTED]</li><li>• [REDACTED] – more justification would be good around use of females only.</li><li>• [REDACTED] – are these really appropriate, these are usually used for [REDACTED]</li></ul>
PL31-24 (new)	<p><b>Licence needs to come back to full AWERB committee following response by applicant.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Significant revision to several areas of the application is required before this licence can be submitted.</li></ul>
PL32-24 (transfer)	<p><b>The committee approves the transfer of this PPL.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Straightforward licence, ERF process will be used to deal with any aspects that do not comply with local regulation.</li></ul>
PL33-24 (transfer)	<p><b>The committee approves the transfer of this PPL</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Frequencies and doses of substances all align with LASA guidelines but not with our local guidelines. Differences will be dealt with using our internal ERF process.</li></ul>

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## (b) Amendments – for consideration by full committee:

**A69-24 Committee approves this amendment but requests the applicant to report back to AWERB around the use of the combined approach after initial experiments.**

Some other revisions required before submission:

- description of body weight monitoring method needs to be revised
- Clarification of number of blood samples to be taken for glucose tolerance testing
- Remove reference to [REDACTED] around schedule 1s
- Clarification of how [REDACTED] levels are expressed

## **A71-24 (licence transferred to new PPLh)**

**Applications submitted and considered by the amendment Sub-Committee**

### Approved:

A61-24, A65-24

### Updates to the AWERB:

#### **4. BVS Director report**

- no report

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

- no report

#### **6. NVS update to the committee**

- Handful of SC18s, all dealt with appropriately. Checks of surgical procedures performed where necessary

#### **7. NACWO update to the committee**

- Axolotl colony is thriving

• [REDACTED]

- There have been a number of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. The committee discussed possible ways to tackle this issue, and recognised there's a balance to be found between culture of care and compliance. The importance of buy-in from senior management was discussed. AWERB will come back to this in a future meeting.

#### **8. NTCO update to the committee**

- 68 completed PIL course in September, one person retaking in November
- BMTO course running currently with 51 students.
- [REDACTED] – no current specific [REDACTED] course. We're working to produce our own PILAB [REDACTED] course ready for next year.

#### **9. HOLC update to the committee**

- We are now nearly three years into the Change Regulatory Reform program, which introduced a centralised service. This has been very challenging. A letter has been distributed to PELh to inform us that SC18 processing time has been increased from 10 to 20 working days, and PPL assessment timeline is being extended to 55 days.
- PELh forum will be held on 18<sup>th</sup> November. Our PELh will attend.
- The committee discussed the serious and ongoing impacts of these changes to animal welfare and possible mitigations.

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

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- We have a memorandum of understanding with VERC to get clarity around overseas proposals and which committee is appropriate. A draft will be circulated for review
- New NVS will start next week.
- Another NVS is now able to sign off on overseas exports, a third is expecting to pass this training soon.

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## 11. Retrospective review: [REDACTED]

- Well written though on the brief side, some additional examples would be useful.
- Questions raised over whether the actual severities reported were complete and correct.

**Action point:** Committee requests that publication list be sent to AWERB when retrospective reviews are brought to the agenda

## 12. A.O.C.B

**Date of next meeting:** TBC