
Minutes: AWERB summary minutes: Standing Agenda items meeting

Status: FINAL

Meeting held: Tuesday 8 March 2022 at 9.30am via MS Teams

Present:

13 plus 1 in attendance, 1 by invitation, 4 observers and 4 apologies

1 WELCOME

The observers were welcomed to the meeting. It was explained that they had applied to the recent call for internal lay panel members to join the Committee, so were attending to get experience of an AWERB meeting.

2 PRESENTATION

A presentation was given on the following:

- update on how the tissue sharing requests process worked and the things that were considered when receiving these requests
- setting up a system to review outlines of proposed dosing regimes

The tissue sharing process at the RVC was explained. It was clarified that by tissue sharing, this was referring to the supply of tissues that came from animals that were not specifically euthanised for their tissues.

Enquiries for tissues generally come from a range of sources. Once a request was received, an initial discussion was held and the following considered:

- what was it they wanted;
- what tissues were they after;
- what species did they want them from;
- what was the purpose and why did they want these tissues;
- what problems were they trying to address
- were the research areas, areas that the RVC would be comfortable supplying tissues for? For example tissue requests for advertising campaigns or tobacco industry would be turned down.

As part of the discussion with the researchers the following would be considered: had they considered non-animal alternatives; were they able to use tissues from animals that were due to be put down from a study, or were they needing an animal put down specifically and if yes, why? Once the discussions had been held a decision would be made about whether the College would be able to supply the tissues. If the request could be met then a tissue request form was completed which was sent to AWERB for review. The form was designed to get the researchers to think of alternative

options that they might not otherwise have considered and to get them to confirm that they definitely needed to use animals for their research.

Following questions raised, a couple of suggested changes to the process were made.

Setting up a system to review an outline of proposed dosing regimes

The process of running studies on behalf of others was explained. Discussions would be held about a proposed study and whether it could be done under a project licence at the College. The discussions would cover what the aim of the study was, what animals were involved and how it had been determined these animals were needed. A decision would then be made and due diligence also carried out.

3 MINUTES

It was noted that the minutes of the meeting held on 22nd February 2022 were to follow.

4 STUDY REQUESTS

AWERB noted that there had been one study request approved since the previous meeting that had involved tissue sampling from pig skin.

5 MATTERS ARISING/ACTION LOG

5.1 Item 2: Teaching ponies (22 February 2022 meeting)

A follow on meeting had been held with senior management and agreement obtained that ponies would no longer be housed at Camden. Instead they had agreed to the proposal of using young calves instead, who would spend a much shorter duration at Camden. They were also considering a proposal of using goats at Camden for teaching purposes, though an appropriate area would need to be created to keep them. The goats would be much more suited to the environment at Camden than the ponies had been. The ponies would now remain at Hawkshead from the autumn term.

AWERB were very pleased with this outcome commending the team effort that had resulted in this. A query was raised whether the BSU teaching ponies should be combined with the Hawkshead teaching ponies so that there was just one pool of ponies that was used for all the teaching activities. This would be discussed further separately.

5.2 Item 3.12: ARRIVE workshops (09 February 2022 meeting)

The first workshop was scheduled for 10th March but take up had been disappointing. Another date would be arranged for the end of March and the workshop would be made compulsory attendance. The Establishment Licence Holder would send an e-mail to PPL Holders saying that ARRIVE guideline training needed to be done.

It was also agreed that a copy of the materials should be provided to the Graduate School to be shared with PhD students who were doing laboratory experiments.

5.3 Item 3.16: Interview questions about animal research done at the College (09 February 2022 meeting)

Revised text for the interview question about animal research done at the College would be provided to HR so that the interview packs could be updated accordingly.

5.4 Item 3.1: Working group to revamp mid/end of project licence reviews (25 January 2022 meeting)

The latest version of the revised templates would be circulated to AWERB to review.

5.5 Item 3.5: AWERB Budget (25 January 2022 meeting)

A training budget request of between £5500 and £6000 per annum had been submitted. This would be incorporated into the budget discussions meetings that would be taking place shortly.

5.6 Item 3.6: Condition 18 training (25 January 2022 meeting)

Dates for this training had been arranged. It had been made compulsory attendance for PPL Holders.

5.7 Item 3.2: Having more small animals oriented clinicians on AWERB (12 January 2022 meeting)

A call for small clinicians to join AWERB had been circulated. Closing date was 22nd March.

5.8 Item 3.9: Establishment Licence: updating the room names (12 January 2022 meeting)

This was still being worked on.

5.9 Item 4: Communicating the role of AWERB to PhD students (12 January 2022 meeting)

The Graduate School had advised that a presentation by BSU was already included as part of the PhD induction week. A copy of the presentation had been provided to the Chair of AWERB so that it could be reviewed to see if any changes were needed.

5.10 Item 5.12: Air handling units at Camden (14 December 2021 meeting)

It had been arranged for a specialist company to come in and review the whole of the Camden air handling unit and BMS system. They had started the previous day and the whole process would take 3 weeks.

6 3RS

6.1 3Rs mini symposium

This was being arranged for early July. There would be a mixture of internal and external speakers.

6.2 Breeding and Colony Management discussion group update

Due to time constraints this item was deferred to the following meeting.

6.3 Mid/End of Project Licence revised templates

Updated copies of the revised templates would be circulated for comment.

The changes made included:

- Layout change
- Split out questions on unexpected events/adverse effects related to procedures or non-procedures
- Split out the 3Rs questions
- Added some links (case studies, ARRIVE)
- Split out publications to animal work/non-animal work
- End PPL scientific results section in line with retrospective assessment form from ASRU e.g. refer to achievements for each objective

7 AWERB TERMS OF REFERENCE REVIEW

AWERB reviewed several items from the Terms of Reference and confirmed that these were still accurate and valid.

8 NVS REPORT

It was reported that a supplier had found positive findings for pneumonia virus of mice in their rats. Checks were being done on our animals.

9 NACWO REPORT

9.1 Camden

- **Handling rabbits:** a new supplier of handling rabbits needed to be sourced. A query was made whether it was possible to use rabbit rehoming charities as they were being inundated with pet rabbits that had been bought during the pandemic. A quarantine facility would be needed as their health status would not be known but this option would be looked into to see if it was feasible.

9.2 Hawkshead

- Horses: Work was being done under a project licence.
- Dogs: there was an increase in the amount of breeding being done in the dog unit. There would be whelping dogs each week.

10 TRAINING RECORDS

Due to time constraints this item was deferred to the following meeting.

11 CONDITION 18 REPORTS

It was noted that two condition 18 reports had been submitted.

12 RESPONSE FROM PPL HOLDERS TO QUESTIONNAIRE SENT FOLLOWING ATTENDANCE AT AWERB

Due to time constraints this item was deferred to the next meeting.

13 AMENDMENTS TO PROJECT LICENCES APPROVED BY THE HOME OFFICE SINCE THE PREVIOUS MEETING

AWERB noted that two project licences had been amended since the previous meeting.

14 END OF PROJECT LICENCE REPORT

AWERB noted the end of PPL report that had been submitted. The questions had been answered satisfactorily.

15 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

15.1 Internal Lay Panel Member applicants

The observers were thanked for attending the meeting. There would be a follow up with them separately to see how they found the meeting.

15.2 Date of next meeting

This was scheduled for 23 March 2022. It would be a PPL review meeting.