



## London AWERB Hub

Notes of meeting held on the 13<sup>th</sup> February 2019

### 1. Welcome to new members

The Chairman welcomed [REDACTED], from ASRU, and new recruits to the AWERB Hub, who were replacing members who had demitted.

### 2. Minutes

The redacted Minutes of the meeting, held on the 17<sup>th</sup> July 2018, were approved. It was agreed that these should be made available, for public access, on the UCL Biological Services website. Other AWERB members were free to do the same, at their own Establishments, if desired.

### 3. Matters arising

There were no matters for discussion that were not on the agenda for this meeting.

### 4. Promoting timely submission of PPL applications

- [REDACTED] (ASRU) gave a helpful presentation on the planned functionality of the new ASPeL and an update on the timeline for its development. The final release is scheduled for August 2019
- All PPLh will receive automatic notifications, via ASPeL, 12 months and 3 months before their existing PPL is due to expire. These will include a reminder that, to continue with their research, PPLh must ensure that an application for a new PPL has been approved before their existing PPL expires.
- Included in the talk were data to provide information on the time required for different stages of a PPL application and compliance with this schedule (by applicants and ASRU)
- Applicants should note that only approximately 33% of PPL applications meet the criteria for approval of the first draft and that shorter applications are processed more quickly.

Hub members discussed the problem of a small number of PPL applications being submitted too late to guarantee timely approval. Options for motivating applicants to draft their PPL applications in a timely manner were discussed.

## 5. Update on London Hub training workshop for AWERB members

Plans for the workshop, to be held on the 5<sup>th</sup> March at the [REDACTED], were well advanced and the number of registered delegates was on track to meet the full quota.

## 6. Sharing a Standard Operating Procedure:

[REDACTED], gave a presentation on the processes that have been set up at [REDACTED] to ensure that work carried out abroad would be compliant with A(SP)A.

- It was pointed out that this SOP underpins good science as well as animal welfare. In so doing, the SOP aims to protect the animals and to prevent any risk of reputational damage to either the scientist or the Establishment.
- The process takes into account the legislation governing research at overseas centres and whether or not they are AALAC accredited.
- The work must be registered by the PPL holder, even if it involves only animal tissues or merely observational studies.
- If the work is covered by a PPL at [REDACTED], it must be registered with the AWERB. Registration involves submitting a synopsis of the research (including factors such as housing standards and source of funding), which is sent to the AWERB Chairman. The work is then considered by the AWERB and approved, if appropriate.
- The registration and approval process applies to all employees at [REDACTED] (not just animal researchers)

This presentation was followed by a Q & A session and general discussion. The Hub thanked the presenter for sharing details of this helpful SOP.

## 7. Update on ASC activities

- John Landers has retired as Chairman of the ASC and has been succeeded by David Main (Professor of Production Animal Health and Welfare at the Royal Agricultural University and formerly Professor of Animal Welfare, University of Bristol.) More details on Professor Main's professional interests and achievements can be found on the ASC website. <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/animals-in-science-committee>
- The ASC continues to develop ways to encourage effective communication and shared good practice between the ASC and AWERBs. The number of subscribers for the AWERB Knowledge Hub is increasing and it is proving useful in sharing good practice and topics for discussion.
- Since the last meeting of the London Hub, the AWERB Hub Subgroup has held two Roadshows (one in Birmingham and another in Newcastle), which were offered to all members of AWERBs in the UK. These focused on the topic: *Hub initiative: How is*

*it doing, how can it be improved, how can AWERBS communicate with the ASC.*  
Feedback from these meetings was highly positive.

- More information about the activities of the ASC AWERB Hub Subgroup can be found in the biannual e-Newsletter.
- A workshop for the AWERB Hub Chairmen has been organized for the 13<sup>th</sup> March.
- The ASC has published a document on Harm Benefit analysis, which can be downloaded from the ASC website.  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/harm-benefit-analysis-animals-in-science-committee-review>

## **8. Scheme for AWERB exchanges:**

Hub members supported, in principle, the possibility of members of the AWERB Hub attending meetings of other AWERBs, as Observers. However, it was decided that this should be arranged, informally, between individual Hub members, rather than organized by the Hub.

## **9. Proposal for an AWERB Secretariat Forum**

The Secretariat for one AWERB member of the Hub had suggested that it would be helpful to set up a Secretariat Forum. AWERB Chairs had been asked to assess the support for this proposal, within their own Establishment. However, it was apparent from the feedback that there was no strong support for the formation of such a group, under the auspices of the London AWERB Hub.

## **10. Matters to report**

One AWERB Hub has set up a secure email account, with 3-step verification, to deal with Hub communications.

Action Point: SCS to explore this facility as an option for the London Hub and to report back at the next meeting

- 11.** ██████████ commented on the uncertainty arising from the Brexit negotiations. Although Brexit would not affect the operation of A(SP)A, directly, there was some concern about options for transport of animals overseas. There was discussion of precautions that need to be put in place to ensure that there was no risk of any detriment to the animals' welfare.

## **12. Date of next meeting**

To be arranged