

Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body (AWERB)

17/19 A meeting of the Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body (AWERB) was held in Edith Morley Room 128 on Friday 13 October 2017 at 10.00 am.

Present:

[Redacted, Sec. 40]
[Redacted, Sec. 40]
[Redacted, Sec. 40]
[Redacted, Sec. 40]
[Redacted, Sec. 40]
[Redacted, Sec. 40]
[Redacted, Sec. 40]
[Redacted, Sec. 40]
[Redacted, Sec. 40]
[Redacted, Sec. 40]
[Redacted, Sec. 40]

[Redacted, Sec. 40]

In attendance:

[Redacted, Sec. 40]

Apologies were received from [Redacted, Sec. 40].

17/20 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held on 10 February 2017 were approved.

17/21 Matters Arising

17/13 17/03 Communications informed by feedback from the UAR visit
AWERB received and noted a report from [Redacted, Sec. 40] outlining progress to date and achievements made during 2016/17 as the first year as a Concordat signatory. The paper also included plans for further improvements on openness and communication about animal research.

AWERB discussed additional information that could be disclosed in the spirit of openness, in particular: severity data, the summaries provided to the Home Office, and mid-term reviews. It was suggested that it would be helpful to include timelines and named actions against the areas for further improvement in the report. Members of AWERB were asked to provide any further comments on the content of the paper to [Redacted, Sec. 40]. The report could then be used as the basis of annual update to UAR on progress on openness.

Action: [Redacted, Sec. 40]

It was reported that the [Redacted, Sec. 40] team would shortly have additional resource to make further improvements to the web pages.

AWERB asked [Redacted, Sec. 40] to produce for the next meeting a paper setting out what would be required in order to bid for a UAR Openness Award and likely timescales involved.

Action: [Redacted, Sec. 40]

17/13 1703 Severity Data

AWERB received and noted the University's Severity Data; consideration would be given to portraying the data in a different format.

Several members questioned where Schedule 1 killings were recorded and how animals used for breeding were accounted for; [Redacted, Sec. 40] agreed to give further consideration to how this data could be collated and to report back to the next meeting.

Action: [Redacted, Sec. 40]

17/13 17/03 Poultry Gun

It was reported that this item was still being checked by the [Redacted, Sec. 40], with colleagues. [Redacted, Sec. 40] agreed to report back on the outcome as soon as it was known.

In the meantime it was suggested that the University could apply for a formal request to amend its licence, as this might expedite matters.

Action: [Redacted, Sec. 40]

17/13 17/06 Retrospective Assessment of Project Licence PPL70/8130

It was reported that comments had been passed to [Redacted, Sec. 40] along with a copy of the new mid-term pro-forma.

17/13 17/09 Work undertaken under DEFRA guidelines

It was reported that no progress had been made on non-ASPA regulated projects. [Redacted, Sec. 40] agreed to investigate this further and to report back in writing to the next meeting of AWERB.

Action: [Redacted, Sec. 40]

17/22 Declarations of Interests and Risk Register

AWERB was reminded of the University's Financial Regulations in respect of Disclosure of Interests and noted the risk register for 2017/18.

17/23 Health and Life Sciences Building

[Redacted, Sec. 40] provided an updated report to AWERB in relation to welfare and ethical issues in the BRU and the move to the new Health and Life Sciences Building.

It was reported that:

- The [Redacted, Sec. 40] had been working with project holders and the University's contact at Harwell to produce a preliminary move programme for each research project that was likely to be in place when the new building opens.
- There were a number of complexities, including: unknowns related to the success or failure of grant applications submitted between now and the occupation of the new unit; difficulties in trying to predict experimental activities to be undertaken in 2019; a lack of information from new staff who had not yet formulated or articulated their plans to the level of detail required.
- In terms of animal welfare, the two main requirements that presented cost and/or time implications related to higher health status and increased technical resource.
- Options, costs and timelines had been explored which varied between £130k and 8.5 months, and £190k and 5.5 months.
- Where commercial suppliers were contracted to provide rederived strains, dates for recovery of cryopreserved stocks and/or expansion of stock needed to be defined accurately to ensure that colonies were not expanded early and unused; a rigid adherence to the official handover date was essential to avoid wastage of animals and increased costs.
- In order to support two units in the short-term more technical resource would be required.

AWERB agreed that it would be helpful for a report on issues associated with the move to be submitted to the University Committee on Research Infrastructure and for a briefing to be given to [Redacted, Sec. 40].

Action: [Redacted, Sec. 40]

AWERB asked [Redacted, Sec. 40] to consider whether there were any external clients who should also be consulted who had not already been.

Action: [Redacted, Sec. 40]

17/24 Pro-forma for mid-term and end of contract review

AWERB received and noted the pro-forma for the mid-term and end of contract review. A schedule had been issued; three mid-term review would be considered at the next meeting.

17/25 Communications

The following communications were received and noted:

- a) Home Office (Inspector Assessment Process)
- b) RSPCA July 2017 Newsletter
- c) Animals in Science Publications for AWERB

17/26 Items for future meetings

It was agreed that the following items would be discussed, in each case on the basis of a written paper, at the next meeting:

- Update on communications
- Additional data – Schedule 1 killings, animals used in breeding
- Non-ASPA work
- Progress on moves to the new Health and Life Sciences Building
- Progress on the 3Rs. [Redacted, Sec. 40] were asked to produce a report for the Spring Term meeting on progress on the 3Rs.
- Three mid-term reports

17/27 Dates of meetings in the Session 2017-18

Thursday 8 February 2018 at 10.00 am

Tuesday 22 May 2018 at 10.00 am