

ANIMAL WELFARE & ETHICAL REVIEW BODY

Minutes: 1:30pm, 20th February 2024, Online meeting

	Items.	AWERB Outcome
1	Attendance: 12 x AWERB members	
2	Minutes of the last meeting.	
2.1	Approved, ready for circulation to ASUMB.	Ongoing
3	Matters arising from the notes of previous meeting (16 th January 2023)	
3.1	3.1 Generation of communal SOPs for audit preparation progressing	Ongoing.
3.2	3.2 Governance routes for commercial work carried out under service PPLs.	Ongoing.
3.3	3.3 Collaborative ASU/researcher nesting enrichment study	Ongoing.
3.4	3.4 Streamlining process for VIN owner follow-up contact.	Ongoing.
3.5	3.5 Establishment of UK-wide association of veterinary research reviewers.	Ongoing.
3.6	3.6 Zebrafish GAA Passport	Ongoing.
3.7	3.8 Ethical approval and governance routes involved with the use of animals overseas	Ongoing.
3.8	3.9 Discussion should be scheduled about licences that can support more than one research group.	Ongoing.
4	Chair's Report	
4.1	Book in session with Secretary to discuss follow-ups with Matters Arising items.	
4.2	Lay membership update	

4.3	Upcoming AWERB Profile on Professional Services Bulletin	
4.4	Discussion of recent ELH 3Rs Award and Annual Meeting	
4.5	Discussion of engagement with new student society	
4.6	Discussion of remit of UINs covering vertebrate and invertebrate species used in teaching activities	AWERB to write to teaching UIN holders to ask that they provide information in relation to ethics and governance to the students prior to a practical using animals (e.g., UIN, AWERB review, source of animals etc). Consider use as case study for the external website.
4.7	Scheduling a discussion on the outcomes of the Rawle Report	AWERB to formally discuss in next 3Rs themed meeting.
5	Project Licences – New Applications.	
5.1	PPL.1Feb24 Aims: To understand how adaptations occur to the neuronal networks that underlie flexible behaviour and how these processes are perturbed in neurological and psychiatric conditions. Benefits: Contribution of new knowledge to fundamental biology, publications and contribution to databases Harms: Mice (mainly) and rats used in mild (mainly) and moderate procedures Discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rationale for the licence 	Approved subject to minor revisions.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Duration of tethering and head fixation • Weight monitoring schedule • Sound statistical explanations present • Weight limits for implants • Habituation protocol and experiences 	
6	Project Licences – Amendments.	
6.1	PPLAmend.1Feb24 Transfer of licence to another holder	Approved.
6.2	PPLAmend.Dec23 New procedure refined following previous AWERB review. Discussion regarding location of licence holder for legally required oversight. AWERB to consider having local requirements for on-site PPL attendance for new procedures.	Not approved due to current location of PPL holder, pending Head of department to directly discuss with applicant.
7	Home Office Retrospective Reviews	
7.1	PPLRR.1Feb24 Investigation into spinal repair and potential recovery treatments Disruptions caused by COVID-19 lockdowns and facility closures Success seen across multiple aims Reported outcomes led to further veterinary-based therapeutic pilot studies No severe procedures carried out Publications in preparation	Approved subject to minor clarification.
8	Mid Term Reviews	
8.1	PPLMTR.1Feb24 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In vivo work not fully started due to impacts of COVID-19 pandemic and current funding • Funding secured to begin addressing project aims • Replacement achievements focused on development of organoid culture models • Publication of imaging window refinement • Care and collaboration with technical staff 	Approved

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confirmation of adherence to ARRIVE Guidelines <p>PPLMTR.2Feb24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current work has made significant progress across 2 aims of the project Fewer numbers of animals used vs estimated One unexpected adverse effect event Recent grants and publications. 	Approved subject to minor clarifications
9	Final Reviews	
9.1	<p>PPLFR.1Feb24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project successfully progressed across all four aims outlined in the licence. Animal numbers below estimated due to COVID 19 pandemic. One unexpected adverse effect event. Evidence of impactful reduction and refinement developments and dissemination, including recent 3Rs Award activity. Future funding secured Publications adhered to ARRIVE Guidelines 	Approved
9.2	<p>PPLFR.2Feb24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No experiments carried out 	Approved
9.3	<p>PPLFR.3Feb24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impactful outcomes of project Thorough examination of retrospective cost-benefit analysis All work carried out at secondary establishment Data produced stored in appropriate public databases Future funding under consideration Publications adhered to ARRIVE Guidelines 	Approved
9.4	<p>PPLFR.4Feb24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project successfully progressed across all objectives outlined in the licence. Animal numbers below estimated. Details of unexpected adverse effects 	Approved

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retrospective assessment of severity • Impactful refinements including use of pellets to negate daily injections and non-restraining blood pressure monitoring. • Confirmation of adherence to ARRIVE Guidelines and publication of refinements. 	
10	Report on Non-Regulated Projects UIN and VIN applications.	
10.1	<p>Non-Regulated Projects – UINs</p> <p>Reviewed: UIN.1 - 5 AWERB approved: UIN.1, 4 AWERB approved pending clarifications: UIN.2, 3, 5 AWERB did not yet approved:</p>	Secretary to inform
10.1.1	<p>UINs to note:</p> <p>UIN.2 – Provide clarification on why donor tissue could not meet experimental need.</p> <p>UIN.3 – add further information regarding how the project may capture technical user experience.</p> <p>UIN.5 – clarify potential impacts of single-housing. Confirm age and size of model species required.</p>	
10.2	<p>Non-Regulated Projects – VINs.</p> <p>Reviewed: AWERB approved: VIN.2, VIN.3 AWERB approved pending clarifications: VIN.1 AWERB not yet approved:</p>	Secretary to inform
10.2.1	<p>VINs to note: Potential clarification to be produced regarding UIN and VIN application criteria.</p> <p>VIN-1 – Further clarification require regarding scientific question addressed through the samples.</p>	
11	Non-Regulated Projects - UIN and VIN amendments	
11.1	VINAmend.1 - Approved	
12	AWERB Hub. (None)	

13	Any Other Business.	All to review and discuss at April Meeting
14	Dates of Next Meetings (Online until further notice but twice yearly in person): 19 Mar 2024 23 Apr 2024 21 May 2024 18 Jun 2024 16 Jul 2024	