



ANIMAL WELFARE AND ETHICAL REVIEW BODY

Minutes

9 December 2021

Present 20, 1 Apologies, 6 In Attendance

21.65 Declarations of Interest and Quoracy

- .1 The Committee made no declarations of interest.
- .2 The Committee was quorate for the meeting.

21.66 Minutes of the Meeting held on 07 October 2021

- .1 The minutes of the meeting held on 07 October 2021 were agreed as a true and accurate record, subject to one minor correction.

ACTIONS:		Action Owner	Due Date
.2	To correct minute 21.57.2. The word 'audit' is to be replaced with 'visit'.	AWERB Secretary	Jan 2022

21.67 Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

.1 Action Log

- .1 The action log from the previous meeting had been presented to AWERB and progress updates provided to members.

.2 Applications considered at last meeting [Minute 21.59]

.1 Dr AI (Secondary Availability)

- .1 The Committee NOTED that further clarification had been received and the review process was ongoing.

.2 Dr AJ

- .1 The Committee NOTED that the AWERB recommendations had been addressed and the application had been submitted to the Home Office for consideration.

.3 Dr AK

- .1 The Committee NOTED that the applicant had been informed of the Committees recommendations.

.4 Dr AL (Secondary Availability)

- .1 The Committee NOTED that PPL had been approved by the Home Office and that a new submission for secondary availability had been made to the AWERB.

21.68 Chair's Business

.1 Membership

- .1 The Chair welcomed the National Centre for 3Rs Regional Programme Manager to the Committee.

21.69 Project Licence Applications

.1 Dr AL (Secondary Availability – resubmission from 7 October 2021 meeting)

- .1 The Committee RECEIVED paper AWERB/21/90 presented by Dr AL. The proposed work involved developing and testing vaccines and immunotherapy strategies to treat cancer and SARS-Cov-2.
- .2 A series of comments were made on the application by the NACWO, NVS and Scientific Reader. Questioning primarily focused on the animal welfare, expected adverse effects and the use of microneedle patches.
- .3 The Committee AGREED that the application be progressed subject to addressing comments from the AWERB.

ACTIONS:		Action Owner	Due Date
.4	Applicant to be informed of decision and once comments had been addressed to the satisfaction of the AWERB, then the application could be submitted to the Home Office.	HOLC/AWERB Readers	Jan 2021

.2 Dr AE (Resubmission from 8 July 2021 meeting)

- .1 The Committee RECEIVED paper AWERB/21/93 presented by Dr AE. The proposed work involved studying the impact of Vitamin D deficiency in pregnancy and on future child development.
- .2 A series of comments were made on the application by the NACWO, NVS and Scientific Reader. Questioning primarily focused on the use of metabolism cages, inconsistencies in the application and the justification for the proposed animal numbers.
- .3 The Committee AGREED that the application could not be progressed at this time.

ACTIONS:		Action Owner	Due Date
.4	Applicant to be informed of decision and once comments had been addressed to the satisfaction of the AWERB, resubmit application to a future AWERB meeting	HOLC/AWERB Readers	Jan 2022
.5	To review the AWERB process with a view to reducing the number of re-submissions to AWERB meetings for unsuitable applications	Establishment Licence Holder/BSU Director	Jan 2022

.3 Dr AM

- .1 The Committee RECEIVED paper AWERB/21/89 presented by Dr AM. The proposed work involved studying the changes in brain function in relation to ageing and vascular disease and investigating therapies for improving or restoring brain function after vascular disease.
- .2 A series of comments were made on the application by the NACWO, NVS and Scientific Reader. Questioning primarily focused on the analgesia regime, the compounds that would be used and the cumulative impact on the animals.
- .3 The Committee AGREED that the application be progressed subject to addressing comments from the AWERB.

ACTIONS:		Action Owner	Due Date
.4	Applicant to be informed of decision and once comments had been addressed to the satisfaction of the AWERB, then the application could be submitted to the Home Office.	HOLC/AWERB Readers	Jan 2022

21.70 Newly Established 3Rs Sub-Committee

- .1 The Committee NOTED that the 3Rs Sub-Committee had been reformed.
- .2 The Sub-Committee would focus on the application of the 3Rs within existing projects and share examples of good practice within the wider research community.
- .3 The Sub-Committee would report to the AWERB on a regular basis.

21.71 Occupational Health

- .1 The Committee NOTED that delays in obtaining required spirometry assessments had impacted upon the ability of researchers to access the BSU. The Committee discussed the ethical implications of this and the potential impact on animal welfare.
- .2 The BSU Director informed the Committee that this had been raised with the University Health and Safety department and fed back to the Occupational Health provider.

ACTIONS:		Action Owner	Due Date
.3	To further discuss the issues surrounding availability of spirometry assessments with relevant parties and update the Committee at the next AWERB meeting	BSU Director, Establishment Licence Holder	Jan 2022

21.72 Non-ASPA applications

- .1 The Committee NOTED that a summary spreadsheet tracking progress of non-ASPA applications was available.

ACTIONS:		Action Owner	Due Date
.2	To confirm the criteria for requesting NVS input into non-ASPA applications	NTCO	Jan 2022
.3	To investigate which (if any) non-ASPA applications require a full AWERB review	BSU Director	Jan 2022

21.73 Summary of PPL Applications and Amendments

- .1 The Committee NOTED that a summary spreadsheet tracking progress of PPL applications and amendments was available.

21.74 Facilities Update

- .1 The Establishment Licence Holder REPORTED that an internal audit of the physical BSU facilities, and the associated monitoring and response arrangements had been carried out.
- .2 The Committee NOTED that the Establishment Licence Holder and BSU Director were working closely with the Estates department to action the recommendations made in the audit.

ACTIONS:		Action Owner	Due Date
.3	To add 'Facilities Update' as a standing item on the Agenda for future meetings.	AWERB Secretary	Jan 2022

21.75 Approvals by Fast-Track Procedure for Report

- .1 The Committee RECEIVED papers AWERB/21/81, AWERB/21/83, AWERB/21/84, AWERB/21/85, AWERB/21/86, AWERB/21/87 and AWERB/21/88.
- .2 The Committee NOTED that seven project licence amendments had been approved by fast-track procedure.

ACTIONS:		Action Owner	Due Date
.3	To review the procedure for assessing applications as suitable for fast-track amendment	BSU Director	Jan 2022

21.76 Project Licences Granted since Last Meeting

- .1 The Committee NOTED that two project licences had been granted by the Home Office.