



# ANIMAL WELFARE AND ETHICAL REVIEW BODY

## Minutes

05 April 2022

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15 Present, 4 Apologies, 3 In Attendance

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### 22.12 Declarations of Interest and Quoracy

- .1 The Committee members made no declarations of interest.
- .2 The Committee was not quorate for the meeting. The guidance in the AWERB terms of reference for non-quorate meetings was followed.
- .3 The Committee AGREED that the terms of reference of the Committee would be reviewed in respect of quoracy requirements and presented to a future meeting for consideration.

### 22.13 Minutes of the Meeting held on 13 January 2022

- .1 The minutes of the meeting held on 13 January 2022 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

### 22.14 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 Occupational Health [Minute 21.71.3]

- .1 The Committee NOTED that the issues surrounding obtaining spirometry assessments had been resolved.

#### .3 Applications considered at last meeting [Minute 22.5]

##### .1 Dr AN

- .1 The Committee NOTED that the AWERB recommendations had been addressed and the application was due to be submitted to the Home Office.



**.2 Dr AO (Amendment)**

- .1 The Committee NOTED that the amendment had been granted by the Home Office.

**22.15 Chair's Business**

- .1 The Committee NOTED that the AWERB Chair had retired. The Committee thanked the Chair for their service.
- .2 The Committee NOTED that a new Chair had been appointed.
- .3 The Committee NOTED that the AWERB secretary had left the University after 30 years of service. The Committee thanked them for their service and support.
- .4 The Committee NOTED that the administration of the AWERB meetings had been transferred to the BSU.

**22.16 Facilities Update**

- .1 The BSU Director REPORTED that a review of the supporting systems for a small animal facility had been commissioned.
- .2 The Committee NOTED that all small animal work had been relocated from that facility to the BSU primary facility.
- .3 The BSU Director REPORTED that issues with the airflows in some of these facilities were being investigated.
- .4 The Committee NOTED that issues with temperatures and humidity levels at the BSU primary facility were ongoing.
- .5 The Committee NOTED that the BSU and Estates department were working closely to resolve these issues. The duty engineer support was working well.
- .6 The Committee NOTED that the Home Office was aware of the issues with the BSU facilities and that an action plan is in place.

**22.17 Summary of PPL Applications and Amendments**

- .1 The Committee NOTED that a summary spreadsheet tracking progress of PPL applications and amendments was available.
- .2 The Committee NOTED that the approval time for a PPL by the Home Office was currently between 2-4 months.
- .3 The Committee NOTED that Dr AI had withdrawn his application for secondary availability.

ACTIONS:	Action Owner	Due Date
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.4	To monitor PPL Application/Amendment processing timelines and present at AWERB meetings	BSU Director/HOLC	May 2022
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**22.18 Approvals by Fast-Track Procedure for Report**

- .1 The Committee RECEIVED papers AWERB/22/15, AWERB/22/16.
- .2 The Committee NOTED that two project licence amendments had been approved by fast-track procedure.

**22.19 Project Licences Granted since Last Meeting**

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

**22.20 Non-ASPA applications**

- .1 The Committee NOTED that a summary spreadsheet tracking progress of non-ASPA applications was available.
- .2 The Committee NOTED that any work involving research animals was to be brought to the attention of BSU in the initial planning stage to ensure the proposed work did not breach the ASPA threshold.

**22.21 Inclusion of both sexes in experimental design**

- .1 The Committee NOTED that the MRC had announced their new expectations of the inclusion of both sexes in experimental design in research involving animals, and studies that use human and animal tissues and cells.
- .2 The Committee NOTED that the MRC had issued a survey to assist in the implementation of this change.

ACTIONS:		Action Owner	Due Date
.3	To circulate the MRC survey to research colleagues	AR	May 2022

**22.22 Project Licence Applications**

- .1 **Dr AP**
  - .1 The Committee RECEIVED paper AWERB/22/12 presented by Dr AP. The proposed work involved identifying treatments for and understanding the mechanisms of chronic pain.
  - .2 A series of comments were made on the application by the NACWO, NVS and Scientific Reader. Questioning primarily focused on the use of neonates and the use of analgesia.



- .3 The Committee AGREED that the application be progressed subject to addressing comments from the AWERB.

<b>ACTIONS:</b>		<b>Action Owner</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
.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	April 2022

## **.2 Dr AQ**

- .1 The Committee RECEIVED paper AWERB/22/13 presented by Dr AQ. The proposed work involved developing methods to predict the risk of lameness and lesions causing lameness in dairy cattle.
- .2 A series of comments were made on the application by the NACWO, NVS and Scientific Reader. All comments made had been addressed before the meeting.
- .3 The Committee AGREED that the application be progressed.

<b>ACTIONS:</b>		<b>Action Owner</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
.4	Applicant to be informed of decision and submit application to the Home Office.	HOLC	April 2022

## **.3 Dr AE (Resubmission from 9 December Meeting)**

- .1 The Committee RECEIVED paper AWERB/22/18 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 clarification of the changes that had been made, the use of metabolic cages and the use of PET and SPEC equipment.
- .3 The Committee AGREED that the application be progressed subject to addressing comments from the AWERB.

<b>ACTIONS:</b>		<b>Action Owner</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
.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	April 2022

## **22.23 Any Other Business**

### **.1 Home Office Update**

- .1 The Committee NOTED the Home Office had issued updated advice and information regarding the 'bridging ways of working' change programme, including standard processing times for licences.



- .2 The Committee NOTED that the Home Office required PPL applications for 'continuation' licences to be submitted at least three months prior to the expiration of the current PPL.
- .3 The Committee NOTED that the Home Office had introduced a requirement for an AWERB report to be submitted with all PPL applications. The process was being trialled before implementation.

## **.2 Meeting Format**

- .1 The Committee NOTED that in the short term meetings would continue on MS teams whilst considering the possibility of returning to in person meetings once the new Chair was in place.