

ANIMAL WELFARE & ETHICAL REVIEW BODY

Minutes: 1:30pm, 6th May 2025, Online meeting

	Items.	AWERB Outcome
1	Attendance: 12 x members, 1 x observer	
2	Minutes of the last meeting.	
2.1	Approved	Complete
3	Matters arising from the notes of previous meeting (1 st April 2025)	
3.1	3.1 Pathogen present in breeding unit	Ongoing
3.2	3.2 Stress impact of fire alarms	Ongoing
3.3	3.3 Refined handling preference to be discussed at January meeting.	NACWOs to consider integrating 3Hs handling habitation into handling training at point of induction and PIL Training Course. Revisit in May meeting
3.4	4.2 Review of access process efficiency	Complete
3.5	4.2 Review of training and competency within Study Plans	Complete
4	Chair's Verbal Report	
4.1	Update on the progress of Establishment Licence Holder 3Rs Awards, and thanks to judging panels.	

4.2	<p>Invited reflections on process from panel members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High workload due to range of submissions. • Comment on monetary reward. • Weighting of the 3Rs • Potential category for ECRs? • Enjoyable job 	
4.3	ASC call for evidence on retrospective assessment and non-technical summaries.	Secretary to circulate
5	3Rs and Culture of Care theme	
5.1	From the culture of care group - Emotional resilience workshops ongoing, with a further planned across the months.	
5.2	From the ECR 3Rs group – session on head-mounted device surgeries, collaboration with industry, lessons from Openness conferences, upcoming session on ECRs Tried & Tested: Bristol Open Labs group initiative.	
5.3	Discussion of exercise to discuss the ethical parameters of sharing live animals (re-use under ASPA) and sharing of organs and tissues.	Dedicated meeting to discuss further.
6	New PPL	
6.1	<p>Non-technical summary provided for AWERB to review and discuss with the applicant. Full application to be circulated for full quorate review at a later date.</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of metabolic cages and subsequent changes in group dynamics. • Assessment of non-animal alternatives and justification • Reproducibility and statistical robustness • Use of controls and sham treatments • Hierarchy of sentience and neurological sensitivity • Species selected for aging experiments • Funding remit and focus within the licence. 	Subsequent quorate full review pending

7	PPL Amendment Reviews	
7.1	PPLAmend1.May25 Update to adverse effects	Approved subject to clarification
7.2	PPLAmend2.May25 Introduction of a early-life stress model.	Not approved in current forms. Clarifications required
8	Report on Non-Regulated Projects UIN and VIN applications.	
8.1	Non-Regulated Projects – UINs Reviewed: UIN.1 - 6 AWERB approved: 1, 2, 3 AWERB approved pending clarifications: 4, 6 AWERB did not yet approved: 5	Secretary to inform
8.1.1	UINs to note:	
8.1.2	UIN.4 – clarity required over numbers of animals required UIN.5 – confirmation of site approvals required. UIN.6 – confirmation of content of questionnaire required. Clarity of sample size required.	
9.2	Non-Regulated Projects – VINs. Reviewed: 1 - 4 AWERB approved: 1, 4 AWERB approved pending clarifications: 2 AWERB not yet approved: 3	Secretary to inform
9.2.1	VINs to note: VIN.2 – updated consent form required, with clarity over data withdrawal conditions.	

	VIN.3 – More detail required regarding the potential increase in duration of anaesthesia and associated risks.	
10	Non-Regulated Projects - UIN and VIN amendments (None)	
11	AWERB Hub. (None)	
12	Any Other Business. (None)	
13	Dates of Next Meetings (Online until further notice but twice yearly in person): 17 th June 8 th July	