

Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body (AWERB)

17/01 A meeting of the Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body (AWERB) was held in Palmer G06 on Friday 10 February 2017 at 10.00 am.

Present:

[Redacted, Sec. 4C]
[Redacted, Sec. 4C]
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[Redacted, Sec. 4C]

Members of AWERB welcomed [Redacted, Sec. 40] to her first meeting; [Redacted, Sec. 40] was taking over from [Redacted, Sec. 40] as an independent external lay member. The Committee also thanked [Redacted, Sec. 40] for almost thirteen years of perspicacious advice to AWERB and its predecessors.

17/02 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held on 10 November 2016 were approved.

17/03 Matters Arising

16/12 Cost of Licences

It was reported that the cost of personal and establishment licences were met from the Academic and Governance Services budget. This would be kept under review; if costs were to increase significantly the University would need to determine where these licence costs could be met from.

16/19 Communications informed by feedback from the UAR visit

It was reported that [Redacted, Sec. 40] from Understanding Animal Research (UAR) had visited the University on 30 November 2016; [Redacted, Sec. 40] would meet to discuss feedback from UAR.

Action: [Redacted, Sec. 40]

16/21 Pro-forma for mid-term and end of contract review/schedule

It was noted that [Redacted, Sec. 40] would update the proforma in light of the format of the HO retrospective review.

Action: [Redacted, Sec. 40]

16/24 Poultry

At its last meeting the AWERB had agreed that permission to be sought to amend the establishment licence so that a poultry bolt gun could be used .

It was noted that the University did not set animals free but regularly moved animals to other licensed establishments, and re-homed animals to other locations.

The most contentious option was that of re-use, whereby an animal was used for one procedure then subsequently re-used for another procedure. Re-use was not normally used with rodents, but was with cattle and other large animals. It was reported that the Home Office were very aware of cumulative suffering over the whole life of an animal.

Members of AWERB discussed a number of ethical issues, in particular whether it caused less suffering to re-use one animal or to undertake the procedure on a second, and what level of re-use was too much. The

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17/07 The AWERB as a forum for discussion

The AWERB received and noted a publication providing a forum for discussion and development of ethical advice to the establishment licence holder on all matters related to animal welfare, care and use at the establishment.

17/08 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:

- o Ethical Issues in relation to the move of the BRU
Action: [Redacted, Sec. 40]
- o 3Rs progress made
- o Review of the Animal Research Policy

17/09 Any other business

It was suggested that the AWERB should take a view of work undertaken under DEFRA guidelines, for e.g. farming studies.

It was noted that Bath and St Andrews had published useful information on how they handled non-ASPA regulated projects. The AWERB asked [Redacted, Sec. 40] to investigate this further.

Action: [Redacted, Sec. 40]

17/10 Dates of meetings in the Session 2016-17

1 June 2017 at 10am - 12noon.