

University of Nottingham
Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body
Thursday 11 January 2018

MINUTES

12 Members Present, 15 Apologies, 3 in Attendance

18/01 Minutes

RECEIVED: The minutes of the meeting held on 16 November 2017.

REPORTED: Following the Nottingham Post report on animal use figures, a Nottinghamshire Security Company had informed the University of Nottingham of a potential protest involving hanging banners over the tram bridge in relation to animal studies. It was agreed that this would be a matter for the Police.

RESOLVED: That the minutes be approved.

18/02 Matters arising from the Minutes

(a) Action log

The action log from the previous meeting had been presented to AWERB and progress updates provided to members. This included:

- (1) the progress of the AWERB Document,
- (2) that BSU staff had been made aware of declaring their medication and that this requirement was under consideration for licence holders (given the requirements of project licence Standard Condition 6)
- (3) that mid-term reviews would apply to five year licences only and
- (4) that substitutions would not be allowed to present to AWERB.

(b) Applications considered at last meeting [Minute 17/64]

REPORTED: One of the four applications had been approved, two had not been received yet and one had been resubmitted to this meeting. It was noted that the time from submission to approval in one case was quick due to the work done before submission which was helpful.

18/03 Chair's Business

(a) New local Home Office Inspector

REPORTED: A new local HOI had been appointed and there would be a hand over period with the previous HOI. The incoming HOI had undertaken a joint inspection of the BSU with the outgoing HOI and had been impressed with the staff and the Unit. It was reported that the Annual Risk Review would take place on 24 January and would include the pre-designation of the new dairy facility.

RESOLVED: The senior NACWO would offer for the new HOI to meet with the Chair of the AWERB on a future visit.

18/04 Project Licence Applications

(a) Dr AA

REPORTED: That the proposed work involved supplementation and monitoring of minerals in ruminants.

A series of comments were made on the application by the NACWO, NVS, Scientific Reader, Chair, a member of the AWERB and an attendee. Questioning primarily focused around adverse effects, focus of the application on sheep, experience of skills required for procedures, and the detail in terms of numbers of animals, for example to calculate the power reduction.

RESOLVED: That the application be approved subject to AWERB comments being addressed.

(b) Prof BB (and Prof CC)

REPORTED: That the proposed work involved defining the drivers of immune variation in mice.

A series of comments were made on the application by the NACWO, NVS, members of the AWERB and the NC3Rs Representative. Questioning primarily focused around details of antigens, anti-parasitics and analgesic gel, welfare before release, exact numbers of animals and detail in relation to tagging.

RESOLVED: (1) That the application be approved subject to the Inspector's initial feedback and AWERB comments being addressed.

(2) That the mid-term review for the above project, ear punching, be reviewed.

18/05 Summary of PPL applications and amendments

CONSIDERED: A summary spreadsheet tracking progress of PPL applications and amendments.

REPORTED: That there were 12 ongoing applications and 11 amendments. It was noted that one applicant was doing work at another institution whilst waiting for this approval which was not ideal.

RESOLVED: That the senior NACWO would set up a small group to make recommendations for streamlining the application process. This would include defining clear timelines (for example for responding to comments from AWERB), an example application annotated to highlight key points of detail (including NC3Rs), and assigning mentors to guide applicants.

18/06 Highlights from recent HO newsletters

REPORTED: (1) That a new Compliance Policy had been finalised, that a freedom of information request had been made asking for 2017 animal use figures and severity levels (this would be available soon but figures could not be given any sooner).

(2) That new data was being requested by the HO in relation to animals which were humanely killed for tissue samples and genotyping.

18/07 Approvals by Fast-Track Procedure for Report

REPORTED: That six project licence amendments had been approved by fast-track procedure.

18/08 Project Licences granted by the Home Office

REPORTED: That one project licence had been granted by the HO.