

**University of Nottingham**  
**Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body**  
**Thursday 3 October 2019**

**MINUTES**

15 Members Present, 8 Apologies, 3 in Attendance

**19/47 Minutes**

RECEIVED: The minutes of the meeting held on 4 July 2019.

RESOLVED: That the minutes be approved.

**19/48 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) That a further Task and Finish group would review findings and make recommendations for future provision of animal research at Nottingham. The Chair would ask if any information could be circulated to AWERB at this stage.
- (2) That the Chair had approved an e-mail for circulation to Heads of Schools about animal work abroad.
- (3) That the new form was now in use for Project Licence Applications.

**(b) Applications considered at last meeting [Minute 19/38]**

REPORTED: That two applications had been submitted to the HO and had been granted.

**19/49 Chair's Business**

**(a) Membership**

REPORTED: That a new lay member had joined the Committee. Two additional members would be asked to replace previous members whose terms of membership had ended or who had retired.

**19/50 Project Licence Applications**

**(a) Dr AA**

Application for additional availability for a current Home Office licence at Nottingham.

REPORTED: That the proposed work involved investigating the sensory nervous system in health and disease.

A series of comments were made on the application by the NACWO, NVS and Scientific Reader. Questioning primarily focused around behavioural tests, refinements and the pharmacological agents.

RESOLVED: It was recommended that the application be approved subject to AWERB comments being addressed using the AWERB cover form, with no need to further amend the existing licence.

**(b) Dr BB**

REPORTED: That the proposed work involved investigating the neural circuits of hearing.

A series of comments were made on the application by the NACWO, NVS and Scientific Reader. Questioning primarily focused around the experience of the animals, the information provided in the Home Office New ASPeL form and clarifying differences between species in respect to the procedures proposed to be conducted.

RESOLVED: It was recommended that the application be revised to address comments from AWERB before resubmission to the next AWERB meeting.

**19/51 CAR Study Refinement Reports**

REPORTED: That a licence was submitted previously and there had been concerns around the CAR study refinement. Pilot studies had since taken place and the test had been significantly refined. This was an excellent example of an AWERB member being able to support an applicant to refine procedures to both improve welfare and scientific outcomes. Further refinements would be considered during future studies.

ACTION: The NC3Rs Representative and AWERB member would work with the applicant to promote this refinement more widely.

**19/52 3Rs update**

REPORTED:

- (1) That FRAME held their 50th anniversary event and the University of Nottingham had presented multiple posters.
- (2) That the NC3Rs symposium had taken place with many posters from the University of Nottingham. Thanks were given to the poster judges.
- (3) That FRAME, RSPCA, BSU and NC3Rs would arrange postgraduate training.
- (4) That the NC3Rs Representative was having more discussions with technicians.
- (5) That the NC3Rs self-assessment tool was close to launch.
- (6) That the University of Nottingham won runner up poster prize at the NC3Rs Technicians' Forum and a film had been produced on refined mouse handling.

**19/53 Summary of PPL applications and amendments**

REPORTED: That a summary spreadsheet tracking progress of PPL applications and amendments was available. Seven amendments had recently been submitted to AWERB.

**19/54 Update re the new ASPeL system and PPL format**

REPORTED: That the new system had been quick at approving licences. The Establishment Licence Holder would be asked for approval whilst this functionality was being added. The ASPeL format needed improvement. The non-technical summary would need monitoring to ensure the auto-populated content was appropriate. As the Home Office need the same information as previously, guidance would be required to outline this.

**19/55 Approvals by Fast-Track Procedure for Report**

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

**19/56 Project licences granted by the Home Office**

REPORTED: That five project licences had been granted by the Home Office.

**19/57 Any Other Business**

**(a) PPL Application Timescale Poster**

REPORTED: That a timescale poster would be added to the AWERB guidance. It was also noted that the University of Nottingham website had been highly rated for its openness and 3Rs content. The NC3Rs Representative and AWERB members would let the NACWO know if there were any more case studies for the website.