

**University of Nottingham**  
**Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body**  
**Thursday 3 December 2020**

**MINUTES**

17 Members Present, 4 Apologies, 3 in Attendance.

**20/49 Minutes**

RECEIVED: The minutes of the meeting held on 29 September 2020.

RESOLVED: That the minutes be approved.

**20/50 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 designated rooms no longer required will be removed from the Establishment Licence.
- (2) That work to establish the Hearing Research area is ongoing.
- (3) That refined animal handling techniques are being used within the Unit.

**(b) Applications considered at last meeting [Minute 20/39]**

**(a) BSU Service Licence**

REPORTED: That the application was awaiting approval by the Home Office.

**(b) Dr BB**

REPORTED: That the AWERB comments had been satisfactorily addressed and the application was awaiting approval by the Home Office.

**(c) Dr CC**

REPORTED: That the AWERB comments had been satisfactorily addressed and the application had been approved by the Home Office.

**20/51 Chair's Business**

- (a)** REPORTED: That papers, minutes and actions would now be presented in line with the format of other University Committees.

**20/52 Project Licence Applications**

**(a) Dr AA**

REPORTED: That the proposed work involves creating a model of COPD to study COPD at a whole-body level and identify differences in COPD symptoms and progression between the sexes.

A series of comments were made on the application by the NACWO, NVS and Scientific Reader. Questioning primarily focused around the appropriateness of the model of COPD, the dose levels proposed for the pilot studies, humane endpoints and how the success of the model would be measured.

RESOLVED: That the application needed further revision before it can be approved.

**20/53 3Rs update**

REPORTED: That the 3Rs committee membership had been confirmed and the committee would begin reviewing PPLs that had ended in 2020 along with selected PPLs for mid-term review.

**20/54 Non-Animal Derived Antibodies – Potential for Use**

REPORTED: That the University has been involved in developing non-animal derived antibodies. This is still an evolving area of research. Careful consideration should be given to the provenance of animal derived antibodies. A colleague with recognised expertise in this area would be asked to present to the AWERB at the January 2021 meeting.

**20/55 Axolotls – Plans for the Future**

REPORTED: That the axolotl colony was at the end of its breeding life and that animals were being rehomed where possible. The equipment used for the Axolotl colony will no longer be required. There is a question of what happens to the equipment now, when there are no funded plans to reinstate the colony.

RESOLVED: That the equipment should not be kept without funding in place.

**20/56 Return to Operations – Update**

REPORTED: That activity levels in the BSU are continuing to increase. There is improved communication between research colleagues and Unit staff when studies are being initiated in BSU.

**20/57 Health and Safety Executive (HSE) Inspection of BSU (relating to large GMO work)**

REPORTED: That the inspection was positive, and no actions have arisen from the summary report. There is to be a full internal assessment of the Unit relating to the control of Laboratory Animal Allergy in due course.

**20/58 BSU Annual Report 2020**

RECEIVED: The BSU Annual Report.

REPORTED: That the report highlighted the high level of compliance within BSU, how the 3Rs are addressed and the benefits of the work carried out within BSU.

**20/59 Home Office Licensee Training Course**

(1) Summary of November's Blended Course

REPORTED: That the training course was delivered using a mixture of online teaching and Covid secure face-to-face practical classes. The format worked well and will be used for future courses. Exam results for the recent course were comparable to other courses. Positive feedback was received from course attendees.

(2) Issues with External Providers

REPORTED: That the current expectation of many course providers is that practical sessions will be undertaken at the home establishment not the establishment providing the course. This can cause issues of timing and costs for the home establishment and the course attendee.

**20/60 Update and Approval for Changes to the PPL Application Process in line with Changes to ASPeL (includes change to cover form)**

REPORTED: That the changes to the process included a revised, more focused cover form, earlier involvement of Scientific Readers and utilisation of the ability to share licences in the ASPeL system. A 'common mistakes' document has also been created to assist new applicants. The new process is currently being trialed.

**20/61 Summary of PPL applications and amendments**

REPORTED: That a summary spreadsheet tracking progress of PPL applications and amendments was available.

**20/62 Approvals by Fast-Track Procedure for Report**

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

**20/63 Project licences granted by the Home Office**

REPORTED: That one project licence has been granted by the Home Office.

**20/64 Any Other Business**

**(a) Home Office Inspector Comments**

REPORTED: That the HOI commended the Committee on the nature and content of the discussions that had taken place during the meeting.

**(b) Future Meetings**

REPORTED: That all meetings for this academic year will take place online.