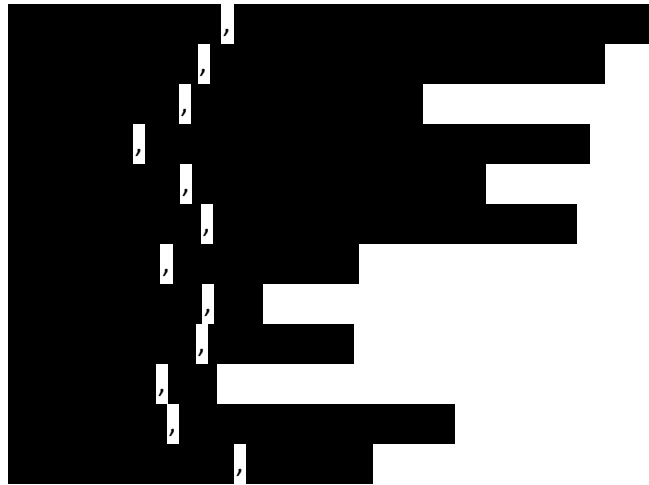


Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body (AWERB)

24/24 A meeting of the Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body (AWERB) was held in Committee Room 2, Whiteknights House on Wednesday 18 September 2024 at 10.30 am. The meeting was followed by a visit to the Farm.

Present:



NACWO = Named Animal Care and Welfare Officer

NVS = Named Veterinary Surgeon

Apologies were received from [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].

24/25 Minutes of the last meeting

The Minutes of the last meeting held on 9 May 2024 were approved as a correct record.

24/26 Matters Arising

All matters arising were covered below.

24/27 PEL Conditions Work Plan

It was noted that since the last meeting work had continued. The work plan was up to date, with a focus on addressing those activities categorised as amber; there was nothing categorised as red. A particular issue to be addressed was business continuity for farm activities; the scope of which would need to be determined and would be discussed at the Farms Management Operation Group.

24/28 3Rs Strategy Update

The AWERB received a verbal update on the work of the 3Rs group. As part of the task of reviewing and ensuring compliance with the Standard Conditions of the Establishment Licence was the work to ensure promotion and adoption of the 3Rs 'best practices'.

It was noted that the following activity had taken place since the last meeting:

- Discussions with the BRU around the scheduling of seminars (including Culture of Care) so that relevant colleagues were getting a good amount of content whilst not being overwhelmed with sessions. Whilst attendance at sessions was good, the [REDACTED] would continue to monitor whether there were any departments where attendance was poor
- Discussions around how best to present training materials – recordings were being made available after in person sessions. Consideration would be given as to how to make these available with the upcoming launch of the new HR Management System
- Consideration would need to be given as to how to evidence who had attended training
- Development of role specific induction documents for new AWERB members setting out expectations for joining AWERB; this would be particularly helpful for new academic members
- Work around openness with UAR using social media. Particularly developing a virtual tool for touring animal facilities at the Farm and BRU– the AWERB was supportive of this

24/29 Annual Review of AWERB activity

The AWERB received the annual AWERB review of activity in line with PEL Condition 6:
To maintain an effective, compliant AWERB

The AWERB reviewed the minimum and additional tasks that had been undertaken by the AWERB during 2023/24 and was content that it was applying with the condition and could evidence so.

24/30 Name Person Assessment

In accordance with PEL Conditions 15 and 16 *Performance of Named Persons*, the AWERB received assessment criteria which had been developed by ASRU for assessing the effectiveness of named persons (NACWOs, NIOs, NTCOs, NVSs, PEL). Members of the AWERB were asked to forward any comments on the documents to the [REDACTED].

[REDACTED] commented that the self-assessment was good as a first step, but further consideration would be needed to 'what happens next,' how would this be evidenced, and how would comments be dealt with, in a proportionate manner

24/31 AWERB Unlicensed Application Form

In accordance with the 3Rs working plan task 4.8 *consider appropriate oversight of use of animals at the University, outside of the scope of ASPA*, the AWERB received an unlicensed application form for review. The AWERB were asked to forward any comments on the form to the Head of Quality Assurance in Research.

The AWERB discussed how best the form could be disseminated to relevant colleagues once finalised. It was suggested that it should be circulated to relevant Heads of School, Heads of Directorate, BRU, Farm. The [REDACTED] was also asked to speak with

RSU about their activities; whilst a separate organisation their activities could carry reputational damage for the University. It was agreed that responses should be reviewed by the [REDACTED], but any contentious matters referred to the AWERB.

On a separate matter it was noted that as part of the new Government roadmap to end the use of animals in scientific testing the use of rabbits in any activity would be phased out by 2030.

24/32 E is for Ethics

The AWERB received a flyer from the RSPCA in respect of Ethics; the [REDACTED] agreed to circulate some further information that she had been sent.

It was suggested that AWERBs would benefit by opening up to more academics. Given that the University currently had 8 PPL holders it was suggested that two should be appointed to the AWERB with the membership rotated after 2/3 years.

24/33 Report from BRU as relevant

The AWERB received an update from the BRU, in particular it was noted that the Culture of Care Symposium would be held next month; nearly all 80 spaces had been filled.

The AWERB requested an update under matters arising at its next meeting on compassion fatigue.

24/34 Report from CEDAR as relevant

The AWERB was assured that there were no issues with research activity or animal welfare. The main concern for all farming operations was the imminent departure of the [REDACTED]; this matter was to be raised at the Farms Management Operation Group.

24/35 Definition of Culture of Care/Compassion Fatigue

It was noted that a Culture of Care in Practice Symposium was to be held on 17 October 2024.

24/36 NC3Rs Self-Assessment Tool

[REDACTED] informed the AWERB that NC3Rs intended to close down their self-assessment tool. NC3Rs were looking for users interested in feeding back into developing a new version. The [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] agreed to discuss this matter further outside of the meeting.

24/37 Communications

The AWERB noted the following activities that had or were taken place:

- The 2023 Minutes of AWERB had now been published under the publication scheme
- Statistics had been updated along with the statistics published by the Home Office
- An events section had been added to the web pages – including the upcoming Culture of Care Symposium
- Photos and some video had been taken of the BRU – some of these images would be shared with UAR
- UAR Leadership would be renewed in February 2025

- The communications strategy would be reviewed, particularly in regard to public engagement

24/38 Items for future meetings

The AWERB were asked to submit any items for future meetings to the Secretary. It was suggested that how to measure the impact/evaluation of the 3Rs locally should be given consideration by the 3Rs Group.

24/39 Dates of meetings in the Session 2024-25

Monday 3 February 2025 at 10.00 am

Thursday 8 May 2025 at 10.00 am