

Meeting:	Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body (AWERB)		
Date:	24 March 2026	Time:	13:30-16:30
Location:	Teams		
Members present:	AWERB Chair AWERB Deputy Chair NASPA Chair Named Information Officer (NIO) Named Veterinary Surgeon (NVS) NACWO/HOLC/NTCO representative Chair of BRF User Forum Assurance representative Communications representative PIL representative (x1) Independent, external lay member (x1) Academic staff with relevant research experience (x1 – for item 5) Professional Services Staff with research experience		
In attendance:	AWERB Secretary		
Minutes:	AWERB Secretary		
Acronyms	AWERB – Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body BRF – Biomedical Research Facility ECR – Early Career Researcher FEO – Favourable Ethical Opinion HOLC – Home Office Liaison Contact NASPA - Non-Animal in Scientific Procedures Act NACWO – Named Animal Care and Welfare Officer NEER – Non-Establishment Ethics Review NIO – Named Information Officer NTCO – Named Training and Competence Officer NVS – Named Veterinary Surgeon PILh – Personal Licence (holder) PPLh – Project Licence (holder) PELh – Establishment Licence (holder) RIGC – Research Integrity and Governance Committee SAGE-AR – Self-Assessment for Governance and Ethics – Animal Research URIC – University Research and Innovation Committee UAR – Understanding Animal Research		

Agenda Items:

Item		Action #
1.	Welcome and Apologies The Chair welcomed all the members, including the new independent, external lay members. Apologies received from: Deputy NVS, NEER Officer, PIL representative (x1), Academic staff with relevant research experience (x2), Establishment Licence holder, Independent external lay member (x1)	Apologies for absence to be sent to Chair in advance of meetings. (ALL)
2.	Approval of minutes and update on action log Previous meeting minutes (January 2026) were reviewed for accuracy and approved. 10/24: Webpage Working Group – to action after the Easter break and to provide an update at the next meeting in May 2026. 19/24: Communication planning on animal ethics. This links to the webpage work (action 10/24), but also includes wider communication activities, such as visiting Schools across the University to provide an update on the different animal ethics committees and replacement activities. To take forward after the Easter break and to provide an update at the next meeting in May 2026. 10/25: NEER support – it was noted that support in reviewing NEER applications, from AWERB members with relevant experience, would be helpful. It was also noted that there is a need to clarify the scope of NEER across the University, so that everyone is aware of what it covers and when it is required. It was discussed about delivering presentations to Schools across the University outlining the NEER process. 12/25: 3Rs assessment tools – User Forum Chair / NIO / AWERB Chair to keep a check on progress with the 3Rs assessment tools and report back if there are updates. 13/25: Lay member recruitment – two new lay members have now been recruited – close action. 14/25: Placements Team and screening of animal-related student placements. The AWERB Chair will contact the Placements Team for an update.	Carried forward Carried forward On-going On-going Closed On-going

	15/24: Tissue sharing platform – this is working well; participation is increasing and tissue sharing has begun. 1/26: Culture of Care/3Rs event – please see the update under item 3 in the minutes.	On-going On-going
3.	Culture of Care 3Rs day (update) This is in the early planning stages and is anticipated that it will be a two-day event held over the summer. Initial plans include one day for presentations on the culture of care at Surrey, and animal welfare and ethics. The second day is envisaged as a sandpit event, focusing on replacement activities, with a prize awarded for the best idea, to support a pilot study. The dates and agenda for the event are to be confirmed in due course.	
4.	Named Persons reports: Key points from: NVS: One Standard Condition 18 report was submitted under PPL PP7099312, due to two mice being found dead. The animals had been checked in the afternoon, with no clinical signs; however they were found dead the following morning, and the experiment was terminated earlier than planned. The animals had received multiple subcutaneous injections of peptide vaccine (the last one 4 days before being found dead); they had been implanted with prostate tumoral cells subcutaneously 28 days before; they had received intratumoral injection of oncolytic virus the day before they were found dead. The bodies were submitted for pathology analysis. The lesions found were associated with the experimental protocol, but the cause of death was unclear. Following discussion with the researchers, the most likely cause of death was considered to be an immune reaction. Contamination in the inocula used will be investigated and doses will be reduced in future experiments. There have been some instances of mice showing clinical signs a few days after having surgical procedures, under PP0204823. Post-mortem examinations have been performed, but the macroscopic lesions observed do not appear to be related to the surgical procedures. The situation is being closely monitored. NACWO: No ethical concerns to report.	

	NTCO/HOLC: No ethical concerns to report. It was noted that PPL PP2250582 expired on 21/03/2026, and that all work was completed by 20/03/2026. A final review of the licence will now be required. NASPA Chair: 11 SAGE-AR applications received, 5 NASPA applications and 2 amendments received, since 28 January 2026. The new SAGE-AR application form has been approved and is now in use, with positive feedback received. NEER Officer: NEER application (OUT095) which was discussed at the AWERB Committee meeting on 28 January, and not supported by AWERB members, was returned to the applicant, who is now considering resubmitting the documentation, removing unpermitted protocol, and including a defined severity limit that does not exceed the maximum severity limit according to ASPA. User Forum Chair: 3Rs Enrichment UG Project – involving 16 cages of surplus mice to assess how different types of cage enrichment affect the wellbeing of young and old mice as part of a refinement-focused 3Rs study. Update - the equipment (16 cameras) has now been purchased and is in the process of being set up. NIO: No ethical concerns to report. NIO provided a comprehensive report with articles, papers, resources, and training information.	
5.	NEW PPL Application This is a new PPL application, to continue on from a current licence, which is due to end in summer 2026. The overall aim of the project is to further understand the pathogenesis of a neglected tropical disease, caused by a bacterial disease of the skin. AWERB members discussed the application. Collated comments will be sent to the researcher for clarification. A general point was also raised about statistical support for AWERB, in relation to statistical calculations required to justify the number of animals used in studies. The	2/26 AWERB Chair

	AWERB Chair will investigate options for a statistician to support AWERB.	
6.	Any other business -	

Next AWERB committee meeting: 19 May 2026	13:30-16:30
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