

Meeting:	Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body (AWERB)		
Date:	4 th November 2025	Time:	13:30-15:00
Location:	Teams Meeting		
Members present:	AWERB Chair NASPA Chair AWERB deputy Chair Named Information Officer (NIO) Named Veterinary Surgeon (NVS) NACWO/HOLC/NTCO Communications and Public Affairs representative Head of Assurance representative Chair of BRF User Forum PIL representative (x3) Independent, external lay member (x1)		
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 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 Chair welcomed all members. Apologies received from: Academic staff with relevant experience, Deputy NVS, NEER Officer,	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 (September 2025) were reviewed for accuracy and approved. 8/24: Tissue sharing database created- action closed 10/24: Webpage working group: Need for outward-facing content. Draft version to be shared with committee for approval. AWERB chair and Comms team added to action 19/24: Internal communication strategy under review AWERB Chair to follow up with NIO 8/25: SAGE-AR form feedback was received and link circulated. Next stage is integrating into website. 10/25: AWERB Chair and NEER Chair to work together to find an individual to support processing of NEER activity. 12/25: 3R Assessment tool: NIO provided overview of facility-focused self-assessment tool. User Forum Chair to review NC3Rs user group recording and report back. 13/25: Lay member Recruitment: Names received, decision deferred to next meeting. 14/25: Placement Team: AWERB Chair to contact Student Placement team regarding screening animal-related placements, especially overseas.	Closed On-going On-going Closed Carried forward Carried forward Carried forward Carried forward
4.	Named Persons reports: Key points from: NVS: No updates. NACWO: No ethical concerns to report. Facility switched to generator during recent power outage without issues. There are currently only mice in the in the facility. PP2250582 – 13 experimental cages PP0344017 – 34 experimental & 4 breeding cages PP0204823 – 94 experimental & 5 breeding cages PP0906402 – 8 experimental & 6 breeding cages	

	1 cage for schedule 1 tissue harvesting NTCO: No updates. HOLC: No ethical concerns to report. PPL amendment returned with minor comments – has now been resubmitted. NIO: No ethical concerns to report. NIO provided comprehensive report with articles, papers and resources and training information. See report for details. NASPA Chair: See report for details. 15 SAGE-AR applications received, 3 NASPA applications and 1 amendment was received since 18th of June. NEER Officer: no ethical concerns to report. NEER has two ongoing reviews. User Forum Chair: Tissue sharing platform was launched. The Chair requested for the link to be distributed more widely potential with help of Pro Vice Chancellor. Extra funding request for UG projects was denied. Conversation should continue on this subject to ensure better use of BRF resources.	15/24 AWERB Chair
5.	PP8648098 retrospective review This application is an end of four-year review. 15 animals were used so far which is below target. The PPL holder reported there are plans to renew this PPL and explore ultrasound and MI model. The committee requested evidence that a search for alternatives has been completed within the last month. The PPL holder to email these to NIO.	
6.	PPL PP7099312 4-year review This licence is focused on immune-based cancer therapies. 28 procedures were completed so far in this application, a patent for oncolytic herpes virus was filed. Tumour slice model was used to reduce animal numbers however immune complexity remains a challenge. The PPL holders stated they constantly amending the licence to try to set the right conditions for the treatment of the models and making it as safe as possible. Both female and male mice were used for bladder and flank model.	

	The PPL holders are planning to renew the licence where refinement opportunities will be considered.	
7.	Culture of care statement Draft document was reviewed during the meeting, the feedback from the committee included: • Consider changing wording from “good” to “high” standards. • Adding reference to compassion fatigue support. • Clarifying review process for non-ASPA work. The Chair will update the document accordingly and circulate for final approval once NASPA committee also has a chance to add suggestions. Once that’s done it will be shared with Communications Team for website integration.	
5.	AOB The committee discussed on undergrad project funding barriers and BRF underuse. Potential solution would be escalation of this matter to senior management. User Forum chair raised concern on excess of mice owing to experimental plans changing. The committee chair suggested options for their use in non-invasive enrichment studies or another welfare-related research. Further discussion will take place offline with the BRF management. It was queried what level of senior management should be expected to support AWERB activities. It was clarified that support should ideally come from the highest levels of the institution, including the Vice-Chancellor and the Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research and Innovation	

Next AWERB committee meeting: 27 th of January in person	13:30-16:30
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