



PPL Standard Condition 18 Notification Form

Please use this form to notify the Animals in Science Regulation Unit (ASRU) of procedural-related adverse effects that have exceeded or are likely to exceed the severity limitations or controls described in the project licence. ASRU will use this information to determine whether any further action is required.

Do not use to report:

- adverse effects that are due to non-procedural issues;
- potential non-compliance (report by other means);
- issues without adverse welfare consequences.

If you are in doubt whether or not you need to fill in this form, please contact your assigned Inspector.

Please clearly title your document: **'ASRU_establishment name_PPL number_PPLh surname_date_sc18'** and send to your Inspector (e.g. using cjsm) with the subject heading 'PPL SC 18 Notification PPL [Number]

Establishment Licence name	University of Cambridge
Establishment Licence number	X81BD37B1
Name of PPL holder	Maria P. Alcolea
PPL number	PP7037913
Protocol no	06
Protocol title	Changes in epithelial cell behaviour over time
Severity classification	Moderate
1. Date of incident	07/08/2025
2. Species	Mus musculus

3. Brief details of study and how the limits or constraints have been breached	Keep alive request In study plan SP145316, we added 13 animals in total to be aged and injected with Tamoxifen when reaching 23 months. The study aims to analyse changes in epithelial cell behaviour over time <i>in vivo</i> in aged animals. These results will be compared to data from young animals which has already been acquired. The mice are currently between 45 and 73 weeks old. One of the 13 mice has been found today with a mass developed near the tail/genital area/lower belly by a technician at AMB. I was informed of this, and asked whether the mouse could be assessed by a vet, who could not be on site and has been sent pictures of the mass to assess visually instead. While a final diagnosis has not been reached yet, it seems likely to be a tumour. No other mouse has developed masses. The mouse is currently 73 weeks old, active and alert, and shows no other clinical signs. The adverse effects and humane end points for the Aging step (step 3) in this protocol in our PPL state: "In long-term aging studies, animals may show signs of age-related decline. These may include ruffled fur, they may seem less alert, less active, and less responsive than do young mice. Very rarely animals may develop tumours naturally with aging. As soon as animals are found to have developed tumours, they will be killed." We will proceed to humanely kill this animal, however, considering that the mouse shows no clinical signs and has been aged for almost 17 months, I am requesting to keep it for one more day (instead of killing it immediately as per our humane end point) and perform a single cell labelling intraperitoneal injection prior culling (as included in the initial study plan schedule) to align with other mice collected of this approximate age. This would allow me to gather useful data from this mouse despite being killed earlier than planned in this study.
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4. Have you taken advice from the Named Animal Care and Welfare Officer/Named Veterinary Surgeon/others?	Yes, I have been in correspondence with Hattie Suckling (NACWO) and sought advice from veterinarian Sophie Kimpton (NVS). Sophie (NVS) has advised she cannot determine whether the mass is a tumour without histology, but says it likely is. Since the animal is otherwise well, both Sophie (NVS) and Hattie (NACWO) have expressed their support for requesting to keep the animal alive if it can be used within the next day to generate useful data.
5. Cause of Problem, if known	The cause of mass development is unknown, but could be spontaneous development of tumours in old age. This occurs sporadically in aged mice as outlined in adverse effects of protocol 6, step 3, of the PPL.
For 6. Action that has been or will be taken	The animal will only be kept alive for another 19 hours, and will be culled on the morning of 08/08/2025 for tissue dissection after cell labelling via intraperitoneal injection. Oesophagus, paws and ears will be used to gather data on epithelial stem cell behaviour in aged animals. Following collection of the mouse I will dissect the mass and inspect it. If appropriate I will send it to histology for further diagnostics. Data on weight loss and mass development in aging animals is being collected in order to refine our adverse effects, humane end points and monitoring measures for aging steps in our protocols in the near future.
7. Reported by (name)	Undine-Sophie Deumer
8. Date	07/08/2025

*****For official use*****

Inspector's comments and recommendations:

Comments and recommendations	
Inspector name	
Date	