



Date Friday, 23/04/2021

Time 1.30pm

To Committee Members

At Held virtually using MS Teams

Subject AWERB Operations Committee

Attendees:

Apologies:

Mentioned within text:

1. Minutes

The minutes from the meeting held on 26th March 2021 were approved.

2. Matters arising

None

3. Establishment Licence Holder Report

█ asked for feedback on the Standard Condition 18 reporting process. █ met with the Home Office inspectors who noted receiving reports quickly and appreciated our centralised system. They asked for researchers to engage more with the named people. █ is attending this round of user group meetings to ensure the researchers are being encouraged to engage with the SC18 post mortem process.

█ attended the Establishment Licence Holder's committee meeting. He confirmed that no response would be given to the release of the Spanish Cruelty Free International infiltration footage until an investigation has taken place. It is a time to reflect on reporting routes if anyone has concerns and provide assurances action will be taken to do something in a culture of care.

ASRU and the HO are going through a transformation programme and there will be significant changes to the way it works. █ suspects regulatory regime and inspectorate changes.

4. NACWO Reports

None

5. Director and Deputy Director Reports

█ reported that 11 new recruitment posts have been closed, █ was thanked.

The █ is back on auto watering. █ reported a valve leak but the alarm system worked well.

█ and █ had a good meeting with all three HO inspectors. The inspectors are concerned with how dead animals are being reported and advised this should be looked into. The animals from breeding protocols need to be reported as well as procedural animals. █ will start communication with NVSs and NACWOs. The inspectors have requested that they receive project licences three months before the expiry date and they should be smaller and more focused.

6. NVS Reports

█ reported on webinars the NVSs have attended.

7. Training Centre Manager Report

█ thanked █ and █ for delivering computers to █.

The NACWOs were asked last month to send █ a list of assessors and trainers for each facility but none were received, █ will send out an email reminder.

The process has started to move training records on to MCMS. This will happen one unit at a time starting with █. The transfer will include species that are not mice. █ reported that ten technicians from █ have been testing the database and only positive feedback has been received. █ and █ have been preparing the system and adding all DOPs. █ offered to provide a demonstration at the next meeting. The deadline for moving the rodent units on to the new system is September. Camtral should continue to be used until █ has contacted the facility to discuss transfer of records and provide training.

█ asked █ about the return to █. If there is essential work that cannot be carried out remotely and Covid secure measures are being followed, █ can be used. █ will contact █ to arrange PIL Course exams in May.

8. NICSO Report – 3Rs/Outreach/Openness

█ reported no Home Office inspector visits have taken place since the last meeting.

Self-reporting SC18s are working well. Three more reports have been received regarding IP injection issues.

█ suggested some retraining might be required.

█ and █ will be looking into recording near miss (NM) events, those incidents that may have caused injury or non-compliance, after information was shared by █ at █.

█ is following up on ROPs so may be contacting NACWOs if researchers are not contactable.

█ is attending the Large Animal Research meeting with some of his team.

The latest RSPCA newsletter is out, █ offered to circulate.

█ will be attending the LASA/ESLAV meeting.

9. Any other business

The Health and Safety Executive want to visit the university to look at large genetically modified organisms.

█ confirmed the university still has genetically modified sheep but this may not be the case by the time the visit takes place.

Date of next meeting: Friday 21st May 2021