



Date Friday, 24/06/2022

Time 1.30pm

To Committee Members

At Held virtually using MS Teams

Subject AWERB Operations Committee

Attendees:

Apologies:

Minutes:

Mentioned within text:

1. Minutes

The minutes from the meeting held on the 25th March 2022 were approved.

2. Matters arising

AOC changes implemented – Every month there will be an in person meeting held at [REDACTED]. These meetings have been divided up in to smaller sub groups and every 3 months there will be a meeting via MS Teams for the full committee to attend. [REDACTED] hopes this will allow attendees to speak more freely and collaborate.

3. Establishment Licence Holder Report/Update

[REDACTED] noted that members of the HOLTIF group are preparing to meet the minister to put across their concerns. There has still been no guidance on SC18 reporting and the standard GA templates. PEL changes have not been implemented on ASPeL and the group feel that communication is failing and they are no longer being made aware of any changes. We haven't currently noticed any delays with our licencing process but other establishments have. We were asked to trial an AWERB reporting document. This was used in the May Standing. It was felt that it was clunky and difficult to use and didn't bring anything positive to our processes. This was reported back to the HO but they haven't come back to us yet. [REDACTED] gave an update on the concordat annual review report. This has been submitted and we are hoping to receive another openness award. [REDACTED] is in the process of adding [REDACTED] to the Establishment licence as NVS and working with [REDACTED] to make some changes to the fish rooms.

4. What is happening in your unit?

a. What is happening with animals in your unit?

Nothing to report

b. What is happening with staff in your unit?

informed the committee that there is still an issue with recruitment. has been engaging with the as somewhere to source junior animal technicians following work experience. More engagement with the facility managers is needed. is happy to be more involved and has asked to be contacted about this. and had a meeting with the about recruitment and they said that the adverts being put out by are often not very clear about what the job role is. is going to the to talk to people who are interested in the work and to describe what is actually involved in the job.

c. What is happening with researchers in your unit?

5. Overview of RCA's and SC18's

Total of 19 RCA's, 13 with outstanding actions. There is work going on to produce some learning cards from each of the RCA's that can then be presented at AOC. 24 SC18 reports submitted to up to the end of June. Since the last AOC there have been a total of 113. These have all been submitted to ASRU but have only received 2 responses from ASRU so far from 24 reports.

6. Non-regulated Procedures

3 Non regs were tabled at the meeting, comments as follows:

- complete the amount of funding available under grant code , till 31st March 2024.

- Please consider sharing tissue or acquiring surplus animals to make use of the 3Rs enquiry list; complete the amount of funding available under grant code , funded by the group; the killing method for P2 rat pups using the word 'either' suggests two methods are to be used; include in the killing section how you will kill the dams.

7. Biofacility Infrastructure

There has been a lot of frustration around the poor service received from the . It was highlighted at a recent HSE LGMO (Living Genetically Modified Organisms) visit. They didn't pick anything up on the LGMO's but they did pick up on the issues being experienced with in some of the facilities. This detail has been submitted in a report and and will be meeting with the to look at an alternative model for UBS. Facility managers find the delays in the repairs process and issues with the supply chain are the main issues. NACWOs were asked to consider what equipment/items/work are critical and let and know. There is a major project ongoing in the . Two autoclaves, two steam boilers and a rack washer are being replaced. This work should begin in August. Currently the cage washing is taking place at and then being taken back to when it's done. have all the boilers being replaced and the lighting is all being changed to LED's. The humidifiers at have just been replaced.

8. Health and Safety (RA's, COSHH)

There was a very productive H&S meeting on 25th April. There are a few ergonomic issues that have arisen in the facilities. There was a discussion about the importance of raising awareness of ergonomics and upper limb and RSI disorders that have been seen with some of the technicians recently. This information is covered in the staff induction packs but it has been agreed to try and highlight this subject a little more and to make staff aware of how to spot early signs of RSI and upper limb disorders. There are good reports being received from which now breaks down the accidents, incidents and near misses. A large number of bite wounds have been reported recently and it raised the question of how should these be reported. from Occupational Health has asked that all bite wounds be reported via email to OH. After a recent H&S observation of the facilities it was noted that there is a lot of equipment that hasn't been serviced recently. It is the responsibility of the Bio facility managers to ensure this equipment is maintained correctly.

9. Training and Competencies

Nothing to report

10. Any other business

There have been issues regarding organising the BBQ. ■ asked for ideas that anyone may have. ■ offered the space at the ■.

Date of next meeting: Friday 22nd July 2022