



Date Friday, 26/02/2021

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 22nd January 2021 were approved after a minor amendment.

2. Matters arising

None

3. Establishment Licence Holder Report

One of the Home Office Inspectors attended a recent AWERB meeting. They have since written to express how well the meeting was conducted. [REDACTED] has circulated the letter to all those at that meeting but will also pass it on to everyone who partakes in AWERB. She thanked everyone who contributes to the AWERB and Project Support Team processes. The researchers are also reporting that they are finding the process to be a positive experience.

[REDACTED] noted a letter has been sent out to all licence holders regarding the timeframe Standard Condition 18 reports are expected to be submitted. [REDACTED] reported on 10 Standard Condition 18 reports received since the last meeting, including 3 for issues surrounding intraperitoneal injections of Tamoxifen. The NACWOs were asked to monitor the training of people carrying out IP injections to ensure they are using the correct techniques. Following a Standard Condition 18 report for weight loss, a compliance assurance meeting was held and a report will be circulated. The Home Office Inspectors also intend on interviewing a selection of people who were involved.

[REDACTED] will be transferring to a different organisation and will be replaced by [REDACTED].

4. NACWO Reports

[REDACTED] has produced an SOP for importing animals. He explained his experiences using different couriers. From beginning to end, the process for each of them has taken approximately two weeks. Now the SOP is in place, users can clearly see what is required to proceed with importing animals. It was queried if [REDACTED] needed to know of all animals being imported. [REDACTED] confirmed she only needs to be made aware if there are any problems. [REDACTED] reported on problems exporting animals to France and Germany due to the lack of EHC certificates and flights. America, Canada and Japan are the only countries currently being exported to.

5. Director and Deputy Director Reports

The Standard Condition 18 PPL update has been circulated. The NACWOs were asked to make sure researchers know that the initial notification should be submitted within 72 hours. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] can be contacted for additional support. [REDACTED] noted that some examples of well completed Standard Condition 18 reports will be shared which can be used to help researchers. The template form has been updated to include the university name and Establishment Licence number.

[REDACTED] thanked [REDACTED] for taking 10 of the spare computers. There are still 5 remaining.

[REDACTED], [REDACTED] and their team on [REDACTED] of the [REDACTED] were thanked for their involvement in the Containment Level 3 study which is about to go live.

[REDACTED] asked [REDACTED] for an update on the work being carried out in her facility. The flooring and decorating has been completed and a date is being arranged for the changing rooms.

As part of the PIL reviews, [REDACTED] has noticed that not everyone has been recording when they carry out anaesthesia for surgical procedures. [REDACTED] asked for the surgery technicians to be reminded that this is still a regulated procedure and should be recorded and added to their Camtral records.

[REDACTED] noted the new pricing will be updated on X5 in the next couple of weeks.

[REDACTED] has contacted Queens College to enquire about the UBS summer BBQ.

[REDACTED] reminded everyone to register for IAT Congress, the full scientific programme is on the website.

6. NVS Reports

[REDACTED] noted that [REDACTED] will be rehoming hamsters and guinea pigs. Interest in rehoming should be registered with [REDACTED].

If anyone has any good examples of well written Standard Condition 18 reports, please send them to [REDACTED]. She is also looking to produce an annotated version.

It was reported that [REDACTED] use cadavers in initial training for IP injections then Schedule 1 killing by an overdose of anaesthetic by IP injection and mixing sodium pentobarbitone with blue dye. [REDACTED] can be contacted for more information on this. [REDACTED] suggested this procedure could be recorded and used by the Training Centre.

7. Training Centre Manager Report

[REDACTED] noted [REDACTED] had circulated a questionnaire to the NACWOs regarding new courses. The committee were encouraged to reply to her.

A new application form for the PIL Course is now on the website. This includes a box specific for PIL review advice.

[REDACTED] asked [REDACTED] if the Training Centre can be informed if any contracts are agreed which include training. [REDACTED] confirmed no contracts will include provision for any training and external prices should be charged.

[REDACTED] queried if there was a ventilated room which can be used for PIL Course exams. [REDACTED] confirmed [REDACTED] can be used from 8th March. The available room can fit up to 15 people. [REDACTED] advised it should be possible to use [REDACTED] from approximately April.

8. NICSO Report – 3Rs/Outreach/Openness

[REDACTED] asked NACWOs to ensure staff have access to Animal Tech Month, there are lots of free webinars to attend. [REDACTED] noted there are plenty of competitions to participate in.

[REDACTED] and [REDACTED] have been communicating with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] from the Communications Research Group regarding openness and videos which will be recorded for the UBS website.

There have been no Home Office Inspector visits since the last meeting.

9. Any other business

[REDACTED] spoke in depth about mental health in relation to the current national lockdown. To hear [REDACTED] speak, please visit <https://sms.cam.ac.uk/media/3436892>

Date of next meeting: Friday 26th March 2021