



PHE Porton AWERB: summary of meetings and activities 2018

1. Structure

The committee consists of a:

- Chair
- Secretary plus representatives from personal and project licence holders
- Named persons (NACWO and NVS), animal technicians plus internal and external lay members – a number of observers are present at each full meeting

The full AWERB committee met on 2 occasions during 2018 and the sub-group convened on 3 occasions. The sub-group exists to discuss welfare and ethical issues specific to the PHE breeding programme and reports to the full AWERB meeting on its activities.

2. Project licences

The AWERB reviewed 3 project licence applications during 2018, one application for secondary availability at the Porton site to conduct work under a project licence held at another establishment and one request for continued use of animals transferred from a licence held by an external establishment

The amendments sub-group reviewed one application to add an additional species to a licence that would add clinical relevance to a high consequence disease model and one change of name of the holder of a licence covering ongoing work, following retirement of the current licensee.

Three project licences underwent retrospective review due to expiry and summaries of project achievements and application of the 3Rs were compiled and submitted to the Home Office where required

3. Presentations

Presentations were given to the AWERB committee on the:

- application of 3Rs to regulatory vaccine potency tests by the development of novel assays that required reduced severity (refinement) and fewer animals (reduction)
- successful NC3Rs funding of a software system for welfare assessment
- presentation on successful school's outreach initiative during British Science Week
- report on Attendance at RSPCA AWERB lay members Forum

Standing items discussed at meetings and by circulation to members were:

- health issue reports by NACWOs and NVS
- progress on new build and refurbishment of facilities
- activities under our Concordat commitment
- AWERB Hub activities
- correspondence from ASRU
- correspondence from ASC
- updates on developments in cell and tissue culture as alternatives to using animals