

6. AWERB Survey for Scientists

This short survey is designed for AWERBs to adapt and send to scientific staff whenever it wants to review how well the committee is engaging and communicating with scientists throughout the establishment. It is not just for project and personal licence holders; the general questions would also be applicable to those who use animal-derived materials.

This is part of a resource pack which aims to help AWERB members, AWERB chairs and scientists understand and support one another better, so that all can benefit. An introduction to the resource pack and the other sheets, with a list of the working group members who produced these survey questions, can be downloaded via the QR code at the end of this sheet.

The survey could be done as part of the AWERBs regular (e.g. annual) self-assessment process, or ad hoc if there is a feeling that relations are suboptimal, or (in the case of issues relating to licence/amendment review) each scientist could be surveyed once the review process is complete. The questions can be copied and presented on paper or in an electronic format, anonymously or not.

We do *not* suggest that any one survey includes all of these questions - they are suggestions that can be selected and tailored to individual establishments and circumstances. Where we have suggested a 'Likert' item, we are referring to a statement that the respondent is asked to evaluate using a visual analogue scale, usually with around five points:



	1	2	3	4	5	
Not at all well informed	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Very well informed



General questions:

Are you currently a member of the AWERB at [establishment]?

Yes/no/was a member previously/what's an AWERB?

Do you feel well informed about the AWERB?

Likert and/or option to reply in free text

Do you know what the AWERB's role is and how it relates to the Home Office Animals in Science Regulation Unit?

Yes/no/not sure

Do you know who the AWERB's members are?

Yes/no/I know some of them

Do you regularly see information about the AWERB, e.g. on the intranet, newsletters, notice boards?

Yes/no/unsure + free text response

Did you know that the AWERB has a range of tasks apart from project application review, including advising on the 3Rs, providing a forum for ethical discussion and developing the Culture of Care?

Yes/no/unsure + free text response

Do you feel that the AWERB improves:

- The quality of the science at [establishment] (Likert)
- Animal welfare (Likert)
- Staff welfare (Likert)
- Implementation of the 3Rs (Likert)
- Consideration of wider ethical issues (Likert)
- The Culture of Care (Likert)
- Openness with the public (Likert)

Please comment on some or all of your responses - your feedback is important in order to help the AWERB develop its role further and improve its support for scientists (free text response)

Have you ever attended an AWERB meeting, excluding those where your work was being reviewed?

Yes/no + text



Would you like to know more about the AWERB, and have opportunities to attend its events or support its initiatives?

Yes/no + free text response

If no, why not?

Free text response

Would you like to be a member of the AWERB?

Yes/no/I already am a member

Questions relating to project licence applications or amendments:

Did you feel welcomed when you attended the AWERB?

Likert + free text response

If no, please give details

Free text response

Were you given clear and realistic instructions regarding the information the AWERB required, with respect to content, length and technical level?

Yes/no + text

If no, please give details

Free text response

Did you have opportunities to discuss your application with Named Persons before it was discussed by the AWERB?

Yes/no

If you were asked to fill out a form (e.g. for interim or retrospective review), was this clear?

Yes/no/was not asked to complete a form + free text response

If no, please give details

Free text response

Are there any other forms or templates you would find useful, e.g. templates for presentations? If so, please describe

Free text response

Did you feel that you had the opportunity to explain your project or amendment adequately, including enough time?

Likert + free text response



Were the questions AWERB members asked you clear?

Yes/no/some were + free text response

Did you feel that you were listened to and that your views and expertise were respected?

Likert + free text response

Did anything frustrate you? If yes, please briefly explain

Yes/no/a little + free text response

For first-time project licence applicants: Was your experience of the AWERB process as you expected? Please briefly explain

Yes/no/ + free text response

For more experienced project licence applicants: Have your perceptions and experiences of the AWERB process changed over time? Please briefly explain

Yes/no/ + free text response

Did you feel that the advice you were given was useful? Please briefly explain, to help us improve our dialogue with and advice to scientists

Yes/no/partly + free text response

What did we do well?

Free text response

What is the most important thing that we could do better?

Free text response

What advice would you give a colleague who is about to go through this process?

Free text response

This sheet was produced by a working group set up by the RSPCA, which included scientists, AWERB chairs, lay members, and representatives of the Animals in Science Committee AWERB Subcommittee, Animal Research Nexus and NC3Rs. The participants are listed in the introductory sheet, which can be downloaded using the QR code.

