Maximising the effectiveness of your AWERB

21 June 2024
University of Oxford

10:00	**Welcome and Introduction**

Session 1: 'E' is for Ethics

Aims: to recognise that ethical review goes beyond the 3Rs and harm-benefit analysis; to review whether and how the AWERB currently 'does ethics'; and to identify any necessary action points

10:05	**What does 'ethics' mean to you?** Open discussion
10:15	**'Doing ethics'**
10:25	**Discussion:** • How does (or could) the AWERB identify, discuss, and address ethical issues and societal concerns, both within and outside project application review? • How would you improve discussions, processes and outcomes? • Have you used the ASRU AWERB checklist; what was your experience of this?
10:45	**Feedback and plenary discussion**
10:55	**Identify action points**
11:00	**Coffee break**

Session 2: Advising on Project Licence applications

Aim: to help the AWERB advise on project licence applications more effectively, especially when there are large numbers of licences; with a focus on advising on each of the 3Rs

11:20	**The AWERB task of Project Licence review: what is expected?**
11:30	**Reducing time pressures when reviewing large numbers of licences**
11:40	**Discussion:** • How can AWERBs manage requirements to review large numbers of projects effectively, and without compromising other tasks? • What would an ideal (and adequately resourced) AWERB do to promote Replacement, Reduction (as in optimising animal numbers and improving experimental design), and Refinement?
12:00	**Feedback** - are there actions that AWERBs are **not** currently doing?
12:10	**Identify action points**
12:15	**Lunch break**

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Session 3: Training for AWERB members

Aim: to help the AWERB deliver effective programmes of training for new (induction) and current (ongoing/refresher) members of all roles

Time	Item
13:00	**AWERB training and induction survey results**
13:10	**Training for AWERB members, with examples**
13:25	**Discussion:** • Did you receive an induction/training when you joined the AWERB? What did it entail? Did it prepare you for your role on the AWERB? • Does your AWERB have a programme of ongoing CPD on issues such as ethics, 3Rs, the law, culture of care, good scientist-AWERB communications? • Which areas related to carrying out AWERB tasks do you feel you would benefit from more training in / knowledge about?
13:50	**Feedback** - are there actions that AWERBs are **not** currently doing?
14:00	**Identify action points**
14:05	**Comfort break**

Session 4: Self-assessment - how well is your AWERB doing?

Aim: to help AWERBs reflect on how well they are carrying out all their tasks, and to identify opportunities for improvement

Time	Item
14:15	**The importance of self-assessment**
14:25	**GAP analysis of AWERB activities**
14:35	**3Rs self-assessment tools: the role of the AWERB**
14:50	**Discussion:** • Which tasks are AWERBs performing well, and which are afforded less priority? • What changes could be made, to help ensure all tasks are fulfilled? • What self-assessment processes do AWERBs have in place?
15:15	**Feedback** - how well are AWERBs currently doing at self-assessment?
15:20	**Identify action points and wrap up**
15:30	**Close**

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