

The national Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body (AWERB) network was set up by the Animals in Science Committee (ASC), as part of its task to advise AWERBs on sharing best practice. The network comprises 14 regions, each with a 'Hub' AWERB which has roles including:

- holding meetings for the partner AWERBs;
- passing on information on good practice from the ASC;
- encouraging AWERBs in their region to hold joint meetings and exchange members;
- identifying training needs for AWERB members, sharing induction and training materials, and identifying opportunities for joint training and support networks.

The ASC wants to help ensure that all AWERBs add value, fulfil all their tasks and are properly supported. The vision is to facilitate a network of AWERBs working together to provide mutual support, effective communications and dynamic forums for discussion and information sharing.

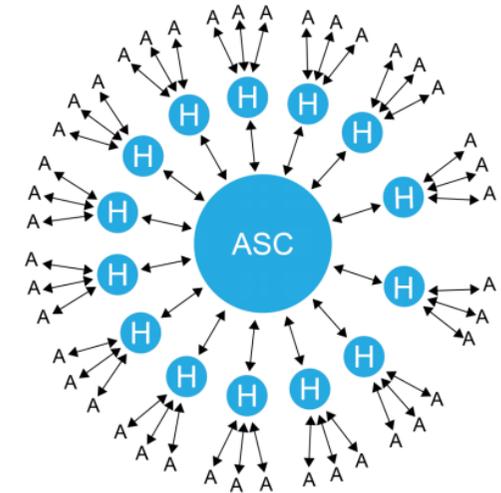
Each individual AWERB should define, develop and reflect its own establishment's Culture of Care, applying local values and perspectives. However, all AWERBs can benefit from sharing approaches to implementing functions such as supporting named persons; advising on the Three Rs (replacement, reduction and refinement); providing a forum for discussion and development of ethical advice to the establishment licence holder; retrospective review; and helping to promote a Culture of Care.

The AWERB network was established on a regional basis, to facilitate physical meetings and visits between establishments. This also enables people from different types of establishment, working with different species, to come together and share ideas and approaches to running the AWERB – something they all have in common.



As there were already user groups for particular species, industries and research disciplines, the aim was to establish a different kind of network that would stimulate new thinking and ideas. For example, AWERBs from industry and academia can discuss how to gain support from senior management, and discussions between establishments using different species can prompt innovative ways of implementing the Three Rs.

Interaction between the ASC, regional Hubs and AWERBs



H = regional Hubs

A = individual AWERBs

Each region has a designated member of the ASC AWERB Subcommittee, to act as a contact point and who will attend meetings and workshops.

The regions and Hubs are not fixed; Hubs are normally in place for three years. AWERBs can move between regions, or form new Hubs, if this will be more effective.

If you have any questions about the network, regions or Hubs, please contact the ASC secretariat:

asc.secretariat@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

The primary benefit of the AWERB network is the opportunity to share good practice with others, with respect to implementing all of the **AWERB's tasks** and promoting **animal welfare**, the **Three Rs** and effective **ethical review**, whilst appropriately reflecting local attitudes and culture.

Examples of topics that have been addressed in regional meetings include: ways of facilitating a 'forum for discussion'; ensuring that ethical considerations are included in project application review; addressing reproducibility and experimental design; and considering wider ethical issues that arise across the different types of establishment in the region.

Other institutions have found it especially helpful to share induction and training materials, and to discuss ways of increasing scientist engagement and communication with the AWERB.



Further information

The ASC website:

gov.uk/government/organisations/animals-in-science-committee

AWERB Hub Support Note, by the ASC AWERB Subcommittee:

gov.uk/government/publications/awerb-hub-support-note

Guiding Principles on Good Practice for AWERBs:

lasa.co.uk/PDF/AWERB_Guiding_Principles_2015_final.pdf

*This leaflet was produced by
the ASC AWERB Subcommittee*

The ASC
Animals in Science
Committee

The UK national AWERB network

