1.0 Welcome, Introductions and Conflicts of Interest

1.1 The Chair welcomed attendees to the 19th meeting of the Animals in Science Committee (ASC).

1.2 Dr Gerlinda Stoddart joined the meeting via teleconference. Apologies were received from Barney Reed, Ken Applebee and Professor Malcolm Macleod. A full list of attendees is provided at Annex A.

2.0 Chairs Update

2.1 Minutes and Actions from the Last ASC Meeting

2.1.1 Minutes of the last meeting had been agreed and published on the ASC website.

2.1.2 Actions were complete with one exception:

‘Action 5: Secretariat has recently contacted the Animals in Science Regulation Unit (ASRU) Chief Inspector to arrange a site visit to an animal establishment.’

2.2 Meeting of New Communication Working Group (NCWG) of National Committees

2.2.1 The Chair informed members that the Dutch National Committee had established an informal network of representatives of EU member state national committees in order to build on the exchange of information and share best practices on the operation of animal-welfare bodies and animal licence evaluation within the Union. The Chair had attended the inaugural meeting in Brussels on the 12th April 2018 along with representatives from around 12-14 other national committees. This first meeting focused on presentations on the structure of national committees, as well how the directive was implemented within their respective jurisdictions.

2.2.2 The NCWG would endeavour to meet bi-annually and Sweden had offered to host the next meeting.
Action 1: Chair to circulate PowerPoint presentation from the Brussels meeting of the New Communication Working Group to Committee members once received.

2.3 East Midlands AWERB Hub Chair Meeting

2.3.1 The Chair attended the East Midlands AWERB Hub Chair Meeting on 9 May.

2.3.2 The Chair described the work by the Hub, including an active knowledge sharing programme involving an exchange of AWERB members between establishments to experience different ways of working and share and promote good practice.

2.4 General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)

2.4.1 Following the introduction of GDPR legislation, ASC members noted the types of personal data held on their behalf by the ASC secretariat.

2.4.2 Members provided comments and suggestions on the Privacy and Protection Policy document as well as the Privacy Impact Notice document. The Committee approved both documents to be published on the ASC website following minor editorial changes.

2.4.3 Members were informed that they would be notified if personal data was used without their consent.

2.4.4 The secretariat confirmed that requests for data would include information regarding storage, processing and intended use of the data within the request.

2.5 Yale Experiment: Post Mortem Reanimation Of Pigs' Brains

2.5.1 Members discussed an experiment which had recently been carried out at Yale University, United States. Reports indicated that a number of pigs' brains had been reanimated ‘ex vivo’ after the death of the animals, with signs of life being detected at a cellular level. Members discussed the potential ethical issues surrounding such an experiment, and the application of the Animals in Scientific Procedures Act A(SP)A in such cases.

2.5.2 ASRU confirmed that the work would not have been considered to have fallen within the regulatory framework of A(SP)A given that the tissue was taken from dead animals.

2.5.3 Members of the Committee agreed to continue to horizon scan for developments in the area and the potential ethical implications.
3.0 External Presentation to the Committee

3.1 The Chair welcomed Mr Mike Radford, specialist in Animal Welfare Law from the University of Aberdeen, to the meeting.

3.2 Mr Radford gave a presentation on the history of animal sentience laws within the EU and the potential consequence for A(SP)A of the proposed Sentience Bill as currently put forward by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

4.0 Project License Review Subgroup

4.1 Feedback was provided by members on the three project license applications that had been reviewed since the last ASC meeting.

5.0 AWERB Standing Subgroup

5.1 The ASC Chair thanked Dr Sally Robinson for agreeing to take on the role of Chair of the AWERB Subgroup from July 2018. The Committee unanimously agreed the new arrangement.

5.2 Dr Robinson provided an update on the AWERB Hub Workshop held on the 6th March 2018. The meeting had been interactive and had generated constructive discussion around a number of key topics including communication, improving engagement within Hubs and training for Hubs.

5.3 To maintain momentum the Subgroup had agreed to organise two AWERB ‘Road shows’, one in the South and one in the North of England.

5.4 The AWERB Subgroup had circulated a second newsletter to all AWERB members, which updated them on the recent work of the ASC and built upon the library of useful resources for AWERBs.

5.5 In addition, the Subgroup had produced a leaflet to raise the profile of the AWERB Hub initiative. ASRU had suggested including a link to the leaflet within their newsletter as a means of further promoting the initiative. Establishments would be invited to direct any questions or queries to ASRU in the first instance to be passed to the ASC secretariat for a response.

5.6 A Subgroup meeting had been arranged for July, however, some members were no longer able to attend. The secretariat would contact Subgroup members to re-arrange the date.

Action 2: ASC secretariat to liaise with AWERB Subgroup members to re-arrange the date of the next AWERB Subgroup Meeting.
5.7 The Mid England West Hub had reported that it was progressing well towards organising its second Hub meeting. The Hub was to introduce a co-Chair approach, with the aim of improving the frequency of meetings.

5.8 Members were informed that the AWERB Subgroup had been invited to a Home Office Liaison and Training Forum (HOLTIF) on 28th June to present on the AWERB Hub Initiative. Venue details would be circulated. Members were invited to check their availability to present at the event.

**Action 3: AWERB Subgroup members check their availability to attend and present at Home Office Liaison Training and Information Forum meeting, 28th June.**

5.9 It was reported that the Scottish Hubs had indicated that they were interested in merging into a single Hub. The Secretariat agreed to write to the Hubs to seek confirmation of their intention to merge. A review of the current regional structure had been scheduled for the autumn and it was envisaged that any changes would be addressed and implemented at that point.

**Action 4: Secretariat to write to Hub chairs in Scotland to enquire whether they wish to establish a single Hub.**

6.0 **Task and Finish Groups**

6.1 **Website Item Describing the Three Work Streams**

6.1.1 At the February meeting, the Secretariat had been asked to draft a brief outline of the three Task and Finish Group work streams (non-human primate pain and distress assessment; comparative study of regulation; and, licence assessment) for publication on the ASC website. An initial draft had been circulated to Committee members. Members agreed that it would be appropriate for individual Subgroups to sign-off the summary of their respective work streams and that the summaries would not need to be returned to the Committee for approval.

**Action 5: ASC members to send suggestions and comments on Subgroups website item to the ASC secretariat.**

6.2 **Non-Human Primate Pain and Distress Assessment (NHPPDA)**

6.2.1 The Subgroup’s co-chairs reported that they had been alerted to a recently commissioned project in the US that potentially overlapped with the Subgroup’s proposed work. The chairs had spoken with the team in the US and found that there were very few similarities and had agreed that they could continue. The team in the US had kindly offered their contact list for use during the project.
6.2.2 An introduction letter to be sent to potential co-optees had been prepared and was to be circulated shortly.

**Action 6: NHPPDA Chairs to finalise co-optee letters and send to recipients.**

### 6.3 Comparative Study of Regulation (CSR)

#### 6.3.1 Update on Scope of CSR Work Stream

i. The Subgroup Chair reported on a useful teleconference with ASRU regarding the survey employed by the EU Commission to understand how the Directive was being implemented by member states. The Chair confirmed that this work was to be used to inform the CSR once published. The terms of reference had been amended to reflect this. Meanwhile, that part of the work stream relating to countries outside of the EU was to continue.

ii. The Chair also confirmed that she would liaise with the ASRU Chief Inspector to discuss whether a review of other areas of regulation within the UK might bring useful insights to the study.

**Action 7: Chair of CSR Subgroup to contact ASRU Chief Inspector to discuss other areas of regulation to include in the CSR work stream.**

iii. ASRU confirmed that they had recently gathered information on alternative methods of regulation used by EU member states and offered to discuss this with the Subgroup.

#### 6.3.2 Terms of Reference

i. The Chair thanked members for their contributions to the draft terms of reference, confirming that these would be reflected in the final version. Members agreed the revised version could be agreed outside of the ASC plenary meeting.

**Action 8: Chair of the CSR to re-draft the terms of reference and circulate for approval outside of the ASC plenary meeting.**

#### 6.3.3 Directive 2010/63/ EU Survey

i. The Subgroup had drafted a response to Section 2 of the EU Directive survey on those questions that related directly to role of EU member state’s national committees. This document had been circulated for comment.

ii. Members were asked for their thoughts on question C, which sought information on national committee performance. Members agreed that it would be more appropriate for ASRU, as the regulatory body, to respond to this section. Members were asked to forward details of the ASC’s achievements to
date to the ASC secretariat to collate and forward to ASRU to support the writing of this section. The final version of the ASC response to section 2 was to be approved at the September meeting.

**Action 9:** Members to send details of key ASC achievements to Secretariat for inclusion in the draft response to the EU Directive Survey.

### 6.4 License Assessment (LA) Subgroup

6.4.1 The LA Subgroup Chair reported that, following discussion with ASRU, the process for the random selection of licences to be included in the study had been agreed. ASRU were asked to commence the process of licence selection and send these to the LA Subgroup.

**Action 10:** ASRU to commence license selection process and send randomly selected licenses to the LA Subgroup.

### 7.0 Chair’s Updates/Committee Matters

7.1 The Secretariat informed the members that recruitment of the new ASC Chair was nearing completion. The Secretariat would continue to keep members updated.

### 8.0 ASRU Update

#### 8.1 Commissioning Letter

8.1.1 ASRU noted that the Secretary of State’s commissioning letter, setting out the work required of the ASC over the next 18 months, would be finalised and published shortly.

#### 8.2 Testing E-cigarette non-tobacco constituents

8.2.1 ASRU reported that the House of Commons Science and Technology Committee were currently undertaking an inquiry into the topic of E-cigarettes. ASRU’s work would be informed by the outcome of that inquiry.

#### 8.3 Parliamentary Debate on Cosmetic Testing on Animals

8.3.1 ASRU provided an update on the recent parliamentary debate on a global ban on cosmetic testing on animals.

#### 8.4 E-Licensing

8.4.1 An external contractor was designing the E-licensing platform using the ‘agile’ user focused delivery method of project planning. ASRU had fortnightly meetings to discuss progress on the prototype. The new system was to be
more ‘user friendly’ for all, provide greater transparency of processes, increased speed of access to information and improved delivery.

8.4.2 ASRU invited ASC members to receive an update and discuss the new system.

**Action 11:** Secretariat to organise a meeting for ASC members to be appraised of, and provide feedback on, the new system.

### 8.5 Processing Times

8.5.1 ASRU reported that there had been improvements in the time taken for licences to be issued. In particular, the number of iterations per application for review by the inspectorate had decreased. This improvement was thought to be in part due to the use of annotated project licenses which had improved the quality of application.

**Action 12:** ASRU will circulate data on processing times for personal project license to ASC members.

### 8.6 Project Establishment Licence (PEL) Holders Meeting

8.6.1 ASRU provided an update on the most recent PEL Holders forum meeting. ASRU had updated the PEL Holders on work they were undertaking with the Non Technical Summaries and the E-licensing system. Additionally, ASRU reported that they had published updated guidance on the Project Licence Standard Condition 18, which had been keenly awaited by establishments.

### 8.7 Update on Work on Compliance

8.7.1 To further encourage a culture of compliance across establishments, ASRU had published a policy document on the compliance system. Feedback from stakeholders had suggested this document, along with other communications on compliance, would benefit from using less complicated language to make it readily understood by users. ASRU confirmed that they were to review the language used within their communications with a view to strengthening clarity and readability.

### 8.8 Publication of Retrospective Assessments

8.8.1 ASRU was preparing to publish their first retrospective assessments. Retrospective assessments were a mandated requirement of A(SP)A for all licenses.

8.8.2 ASRU had published and circulated guidance for applicants on how to write retrospective assessments.
8.8.3 This tool was a valuable method to share the 3Rs (Replacement, Refinement and Reduction) and provided details of the harm-benefit analysis of projects which used animals in research.

8.9 Publication of Non-Technical Summaries (NTSs)

8.9.1 ASRU was working on a process to publish NTSs within three months of receipt. Feedback from stakeholders had indicated that categorisation of the summaries was helpful and ASRU had prioritised this requirement. ASRU planned to publish the first NTSs as soon as possible.

**Action 13:** Dr Donald Bruce to resend his comments on NTSs to ASRU to incorporate into the project license form.

8.10 Update PQs and FOI (Welfare and Protection Groups)

8.10.1 Members were provided a list of PQs and FOIs received by ASRU since the ASC’s last plenary meeting.

8.11 ASRU/ASC Discussion on Exiting the EU

8.11.1 ASRU updated the Committee on their ongoing EU exit work. The policy aim was to achieve a seamless transition following the UK’s exit from the EU. Minor amendments to ASPA are required to remove references to EU Directives and Regulations, whilst keeping the same required animal welfare standards as we have currently.

**Action 14:** ASRU to share the updated A(SP)A with ASC, once drafting has been completed.

9.0 AOB

9.1 The Committee was reminded that the date of the next meeting was the 17th September 2018.
Annex A

Animals in Science Committee (ASC)

Dr John Landers (Chair)
Dr Donald Bruce
Dr Hannah Clarke
Prof Gail Davies
Wendy Jarrett
Dr Sally Robinson
Anna Rowland
Prof Clare Stanford
Dr Aurelie Thomas

Observers
Kate Chandler (Head of Policy, ASRU)

ASC Science Secretariat
Dr Joanne Wallace (Head of Science Secretariat)
Caroline Wheeler (ASC Secretary)
Laura Zagarella (ASC Secretariat)
### Annex B

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