



Home Office

Establishment Licence Holder Newsletter – October 2018

Dear Establishment Licence Holder,

There are a number of important updates to bring to your attention.

Proposed fees increase 2019/20

Every year we review our actual and forecasted income and expenditure to ensure that our income from licence fees can fully cover our direct costs and overheads. The ASRU annual report details our financial position. Previous annual reports are available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/animals-in-science-regulation-unit-annual-reports>. The 2017 annual report is planned to be available in the next few weeks.

We are currently liaising with HM Treasury regarding our proposals for FY 2019/20. We propose to increase the fees from the 6th April 2019 (common commencement date) in order to continue to recover our costs. The increases planned are from £757 to £826 for the PEL (9%) and from £257 to £275 for the PIL (7%). As fees are invoiced in arrears, if there is an increase, you would not be paying the increased amount until you are invoiced in May - July 2020. The purpose of the increase is to cover the costs of the new and improved e-Licensing system and enable the Unit to continue to fully deliver its regulatory service through inspector provision. The proposals are yet to be cleared by Treasury and subsequently Parliament. I will send a further update at the earliest opportunity to let you know of developments.

New Statistical Release

The additional statistics on the breeding and genotyping of animals for scientific procedures will be published on 8th November 2018. These statistics feature the number

of genetically 'normal' animals (i.e. not genetically altered) that are bred for scientific purposes, but are not used in scientific procedures. As you will be aware, the new statistics have been collected for the first time under EU Directive (2010/63/EU) which has required each member state to collect these data.

EU exit

Preparations are ongoing for EU exit, to continue the seamless regulation of animals in science. The minor changes to the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act required for exit have now been drafted and can be found [here](#).

If you have any concerns or questions about animals in science and EU exit, please email Kate.Chandler@homeoffice.gov.uk

NC3R's

Every year the NC3Rs highlights outstanding and original research with a high 3Rs impact through its International 3Rs Prize. The 2018 competition is now open for applications.

This prestigious award is sponsored by GSK and consists of a £28k prize grant and a £2k personal award, to be presented in London in March 2019. Authors of papers published in the last three years, based anywhere in the world, are eligible to be nominated for the prize.

The deadline to apply is 4pm (GMT) on Wednesday 5 December 2018. For more information, please visit www.nc3rs.org.uk/3Rsprize.

3Rs initiatives

Refined mouse handling

A priority for ASRU over the next few months is to partner with the NC3Rs to promote the use of refined mouse handling methods (cup and tunnel handling). There is clear evidence

that use of these techniques reduces anxiety and thus is beneficial both for animal welfare and scientific reproducibility. The mice can still be effectively restrained, as needed for procedures, and habituate to the techniques quickly. Once skilled there is no difference in the time taken by technicians or researchers to use these techniques. There are resources available to support the transition to these techniques on the NC3Rs website (<https://www.nc3rs.org.uk/how-to-pick-up-a-mouse>).

During 2019, Home Office Inspectors will be engaging with establishments during inspection visits to assess their current strategy for uptake of these refinements. They will be assessing the degree to which high level support is in place, training of technicians, engagement with researchers, implementation and evaluation. They will also signpost where resources and additional assistance can be obtained. Following this initial engagement they will assess progress of uptake as part of their regular inspection activities.

High level support is a critical success factor for this type of change. Please assure yourself that your AWERB and named persons are familiar with the guidance and are delivering the refinement with staff.

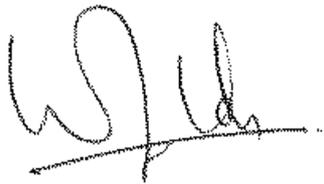
Needle re-use

The practice of re-using single use hypodermic needles has implications for animal welfare. The point of the needle is deformed from a single use and this deformity increases with re-use of the needle. Use of deformed needles will cause more pain and tissue damage than a new needle. Moreover, tissue products adhere to needles so re-use of needles is likely to result in transfer of these products between animals. Data quality may be affected due to the increased chances of spreading infection between animals and the increased pain from using a deformed needle. These factors are likely to act as potential confounders to any data obtained during a study. This has been highlighted in the NC3Rs blog from December 2017 (<https://www.nc3rs.org.uk/news/re-use-needles-indicator-culture-care>).

Over the next few months, Home Office Inspectors will be conducting themed inspections

around needle re-use in establishments, via the use of a questionnaire. This will allow ASRU to assess the level of needle re-use across establishments as well as to identify instances where it may be justifiable and barriers to adopting good practice. The outcome of the themed inspections will be used by ASRU to develop a clear position on needle re-use. We will assess the effectiveness of clarifying our position by repeating the themed inspections in due course. The long-term aim is to minimise re-use of single use needles across establishments, whilst working with stakeholders to ensure that the delivery of high quality scientific outputs is still achievable. As with the initiative on mouse handling, success will be dependent on your support.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the winter meeting later this month.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Will Reynolds', with a horizontal line drawn underneath the name.

Will Reynolds

Head of the Animals in Science Regulation Unit