**Summary Report of Animal Welfare Committee (AWC) plenary meeting**

**Held virtually, 3rd November 2020**

**Items discussed**

* Defra, Welsh, Northern Ireland and Scottish Governments gave summaries of animal welfare activity.
* Updates were given on current AWC projects – The Report on the Welfare of Goats at the Time of Killing has been submitted. The reviews of Cattle Production Systems and of the Impacts of Covid-19 on Animal Welfare are due to be finished shortly.
* There was a discussion around a proposed ‘Animal Health and Welfare Pathway’ which aims to bridge the gap between health and welfare across the farming sector.
* There was a discussion around how the UK’s animal welfare standards compare to others on the global stage.
* There was a discussion around animal sentience and how government might recognise animals as sentient in their policy making.
* There was a discussion around AWC’s 2021 work plan and future priorities.
* AWC chairman, Peter Jinman acknowledged the end of Mark White’s nine year membership of AWC, as his last appointment will come to an end at the end of 2020.

Further information

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