



# **Animals in Science Committee Work Streams for 2018-19**

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***Animals in Science Committee***

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## Animals in Science Committee Work Streams for 2018-2019

The Animals in Science Committee (ASC) has established three Task and Finish Subgroups which will take forward the following three work streams for 2018/2019:

### **1.0 Comparative study of regulation**

The Comparative Study of Regulation Group is a Task and Finish Group whose purpose is to study and learn from regulatory systems governing animal research in other countries and from other regulatory systems within the UK. The ASC's mandate under Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act (A(SP)A) includes a requirement to exchange information with the European Union to co-ordinate best practice, particularly in areas of project licence applications and the operation of ethical review bodies. Whilst this sharing of information has been happening, it has not been systemised.

This Group will undertake a comparative study to identify any lessons that might improve the operational implementation of A(SP)A. This work will comprise two main areas. The first will be a report outlining the process for licensing and monitoring animal research in some other EU Member States as well as well as countries outside the EU. This report will highlight any lessons learned that could be applied to the operation of A(SP)A.

The second area addresses the issues involved in operating A(SP)A that are specific to animal research as well as other issues that are generic to the regulation process. A report will examine selected comparative UK regulatory systems and understand how they: ensure the requirement for effective regulation is balanced against the avoidance of excessive burdens on practitioners; how societal concerns are defined, identified and accommodated, and how the promotion of self-reporting is reconciled with the need to ensure that robust and proportionate action is taken to respond to negligence and wilful non-compliance.

The work stream including the report publication is expected to be finalised in September 2019.

### **2.0 Non-human primate welfare assessment**

Effective monitoring of the welfare of non-human primates used for scientific purposes is essential for facilitating understanding and documenting of the impact of the procedures on the quality of life of individuals, and for evaluating the effect of husbandry practices and management interventions aimed at refining these. Ensuring that all those working with non-human primates (NHPs) have the ability to assess welfare effectively, and share this expertise with others, would therefore benefit both animals and staff. Effective welfare

assessment greatly relies on the capacity of observers to understand and identify normal from abnormal (i.e., pain specific) behaviours of non-human primates held in captivity.

The NHP task and finish group was set up to review how individuals working with non-human primates (i.e., scientists, technicians, Named Veterinary Surgeons (NVSs), Named Animal Care and Welfare Officers (NACWOs), Home Office Inspectors) effectively assess NHP with an emphasis on the understanding and identification of normal and abnormal behaviours. The group will establish whether the current assessment of NHP behaviour and welfare could be facilitated by enhancing the behavioural training resources available to stakeholders involved in the use and care of NHPs.

The work stream expected to be finalised by December 2019, at which point the Subgroup will report their findings and present them to all relevant stakeholders.

### 3.0 Licence analysis

The License Analysis (LA) Task and Finish Subgroup was set up to review a selection of project licenses and to provide feedback to the ASC and Animals in Science Regulation Unit (ASRU). The License Referral Review (LRR) subgroup previously reviewed the process through which project license applications were selected by the Inspectorate for referral to the ASC Project License Applications (PLA) subcommittee and how they were reviewed by the PLA subcommittee. The findings of this review can be found [here](#).

As an extension to this earlier review and to gain a broader view of licenses received and processed by ASRU the LA subgroup will analyse a selection of project license applications. The licences reviewed will include six randomly selected rodent licences with protocols involving the three severity ratings (severe, moderate and mild), and four randomly selected NHP licences involving moderate and mild protocols., In addition, the Subgroup may review licences nominated by ASRU.

The work stream is expected to be finalised in March 2019, at which point the Subgroup will present a report describing their observation to the ASC and identifying any next steps as appropriate.