



Home Office

## **Establishment Licence Holder Newsletter – 26 March 2021**

Dear Establishment Licence Holder,

### **Re: Animals in Science Regulation Unit (ASRU) Change Programme**

I am writing to you today about ASRU's future plans.

The last year has been one of profound change. We acknowledge the very different landscape for many businesses regulated under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act (ASPA). In a changed environment, we recognise that you, and your other establishment licence holder colleagues, have worked hard to maintain standards of compliance. As the Regulator, ASRU has sought to maintain assurance in delivering regulation of compliance with the Act and proportionality and fairness in our operation.

Moments of change are when we learn most and therefore present an opportunity to reflect on how we work. In the context of EU Exit, Covid-19 and feedback from the sector I am pleased to announce that ASRU has initiated a Change Programme. The aim is to better align ASRU's activities to deliver its purpose of protecting animals in science by maintaining compliance with ASPA. Our strategic focus will be on governance – of Ourselves, Establishments, Projects and Individuals.

The benefits of the programme will be to increase efficiency and be more effective in delivering outcomes and service. Accordingly, the Change Programme will alter how we operate. At its heart is our drive to improve the ability of your community to be compliant. For you, we will seek to provide consistency and clarity of regulation. You should know what is expected of you and how to meet that expectation. We will seek to deliver greater openness and transparency of ASRU in how it meets its regulatory obligations.

Whilst change is necessary, it should not be to the detriment of the good practice that many establishments have in place. Indeed, good practice through good governance will

be our guiding light.

We will be keeping you well informed of developments over the coming weeks and months. I look forward to sharing more with you shortly.

Regards,

Will Reynolds

Head of the Animals in Science Regulation Unit