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Lord Sharpe of Epsom

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Dear Minister

Animal in Science Committee – Report of the Project Licence Strategic Review Subgroup

In response to the 2020/21 annual Commission from your predecessor, the Animals in Science Committee (ASC) is pleased to send to you the Report of the Project Licence Strategic Review Subgroup.


This report summarises the findings of the ASC following a review of antibody licences referred to the Committee by the Animals in Science Regulation Unit.

The report identifies principles that can be used by ASRU in their assessment of the evidence provided by applicants of how they comply with requirements to ensure that 3Rs are implemented, as well as an assessment of the 'robust, legitimate scientific justification' provided for the continued use of animals for the development or production of antibodies.

The report also highlights areas for improvement and sets out recommendations for applicants, ASRU and others to support those improvements.

The ASC would like to thank ASRU for their assistance to the Committee during this review, and we look forward to working with newly established Animals in Science Policy and Co-ordination Function in support of the implementation of these recommendations.

Yours sincerely,



Professor David Main
Chair of the Animals in Science Committee