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ASPA e-Newsletter: October 2010

Recent departures

Jon Richmond, David Anderson, Elspeth Scott and two members of our licensing team, Funke and Liz left the Home Office on 22 October having taken advantage of a recent voluntary early release scheme in which over 1000 staff left the Home Office. We are sure you will want to join us in thanking Jon, David and Elspeth for the tremendous contribution they have made to the work of ASPD and ASPI over their many years of service and in wishing them all well for the future.

Martin Walsh replaces Jon Richmond as head of the Animals Scientific Procedures Division.

Farewell Directive 86/609/EEC: welcome Directive 2010/63/EU

Negotiation of the new European Union Directive to replace Directive 86/609/EEC is now complete and the final text of the new directive has been published in the Official Journal of the European Union as Directive 2010/63/EU. It can be read and downloaded at:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2010:276:0033:0079:EN:PDF>

Member States have two years to transpose its provisions into national legislation which must be implemented from 1 January 2013. We are currently analysing the provisions of the directive in detail and will in due course hold a public consultation on options for transposition. This will launch either just before Christmas or early in the New Year.

Delivery of the Coalition pledges

We are currently developing a strategy to deliver the coalition pledge to work to reduce the use of animals in scientific research and will announce our plans in due course. We are also working on the separate pledge to end the testing of household products on animals. In taking both issues forward we recognise that there is no quick fix to reduce animal use and we are keen not to raise unrealistic expectations about what will be achievable. We will be looking for genuine reductions which improve animal welfare. We are not looking to drive work abroad to countries where lower standards or less stringent testing guidelines apply.

All forms relating to Personal, Project Licences and the Certificate of Designation

From the week beginning the 1st of November 2010 new operating procedures will come into effect to help the licensing team improve efficiency.

A version date box has been added to each form which is to be filled in by the applicant with the date the application was prepared/submitted to the Home Office. Please note that application forms that do not have this box completed will be returned for re-submission.

Application for Change(s) forms will no longer be sent out with the Licence/Certificate. Please download these from the Home Office web site at: <http://scienceandresearch.homeoffice.gov.uk/animal-research>

For any Project Licence amendment requests two copies of the entire sections containing the amendments are required. One copy may have pale yellow highlighting to identify any changes and the other should be unmarked. Minor administrative updates have also been made to the Project Licence application form which can be downloaded from the web site.

When making an application for a Project Licence the new Project Licence application form (Version 1.3) will be on the web site shown as Project Licence application, which should be used for all Project Licence applications. New applications on the old form will no longer be acceptable. The old form may still be used for amendments to existing project licences.

Photocopies of supporting modular training certificate(s) are acceptable in place of the original certificates.

When applying for a Certificate of Designation you should only use the new form.

Certificate Holders Forum

The Home Office was well represented at the recent Certificate Holders' Forum in York. David Anderson, Andrew Coulson and Elspeth Scott assisted with the Training Day on Monday 11th October, and the following day speakers included Bernard Silverman, Home Office Chief Scientific Adviser, Martin Walsh, Judy MacArthur Clark and Jon Richmond. Discussion on the new EU Directive and the possible impact of public spending cuts was very lively. The APC was also represented by Sarah Nathan.

European Statistics

The Sixth Report from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament on the Statistics on the number of animals used for experimental and other scientific purposes in the member states of the European Union can be accessed from:- http://ec.europa.eu/environment/chemicals/lab_animals/reports_en.htm

Animal Procedures Committee Annual Report

In accordance with section 20(5) of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986, the Committee's annual report for 2009 has today been laid before the House. Copies are available in the Vote Office. The report includes details of:

- A Committee report and Minister's response on appropriate methods of humane killing for fish;
- A Committee report and Minister's response to the strengths and weaknesses of the current system of severity limits as a way of prospectively assessing suffering and severity;
- Committee correspondence on progress with the revision of Directive 86/609 and
- The Committees programme of work for 2010 onwards.

The report can be read in full at:

http://apc.homeoffice.gov.uk/reference/apc_annual_report_2010.pdf

NC3Rs:

The latest NC3Rs newsletter can be read at:

http://www.nc3rs.org.uk/pubs_landing.asp?id=14

Details of funding to support the development of new models for asthma research can be read at:

<http://www.nc3rs.org.uk/news.asp?id=1405>

Understanding Animal Research

The latest UAR newsletter can be read at:

http://www.understandinganimalresearch.org.uk/latest_news

You can subscribe to the UAR by completing the application at:-

http://www.understandinganimalresearch.org.uk/latest_news/subscribe_to_newsletter

Lay Members Forum

Judy MacArthur Clark gave a Home Office update to the Lay Members' Forum organised by the RSPCA in London on October 19th at which Anne Marie Farmer also spoke about Severity Classification.

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The Home Office Research and testing using animals website provides practitioners with guidance on licence applications and related legislation

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/science-research/animal-research/>