

## Call for evidence: Non-sector stakeholders

Information provided in this document will be used solely to inform the Animals in Science Committee (ASC)'s advice. Responses will be handled in confidence and will not be disclosed in a manner that could identify individual respondents or establishments.

Access to identifiable information will be restricted to the ASC Secretariat only. Responses will be aggregated and anonymised prior to analysis and reporting, and any published findings will not include identifiable details.

Personal or identifying information accessible by the ASC Secretariat will be deleted following the report publication, with only anonymised data securely retained for a defined period in line with standard [Home Office data handling procedures](#).

An Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body (AWERB) is a committee required by law for UK research organisations that use animals in regulated procedures. Its role is to make sure that the use of animals in outlined projects is justified, and that the principles of replacement, reduction and refinement (the 3Rs) are applied to minimise the numbers used and the harms experienced. The membership includes a mix of scientific staff, Named Persons (e.g. named Veterinary Surgeon), animal care staff, lay and/or independent members to bring a broad range of perspectives to decision-making.

The effective functioning of the AWERBs is crucial to the effective delivery of an establishments' responsibilities under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 (ASPA).

The ASC has been commissioned to [provide advice to the Home Office Minister on strengthening the functioning of AWERBs](#) to inform the expected standards of practice for AWERBs established within the regulated sector, Home Office guidance and effective audit practices by the Regulator.

To inform our work, the ASC's AWERB Subgroup would be grateful if you could provide us with feedback to the following questions.

Please return the completed document to [asc.secretariat@homeoffice.gov.uk](mailto:asc.secretariat@homeoffice.gov.uk) by **5 August 2026**.

**Any information you can provide would be greatly appreciated, and please note that you do not have to answer all the questions below if they are not relevant to you.**

## Background Information

1. Name of individual / organisation:

--

2. Which of the following best describes you or your organisation? Select all that apply.

- |  |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Advocacy, welfare, or public engagement</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Campaign group</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Charity</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Professional working with animals in research</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Professional working in science/research (not directly with animals)</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Member of an Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body (AWERB)</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Regulatory or policy professional (e.g. government, inspectorate)</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Industry representative (e.g. pharmaceutical, biotech)</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Member of the general public (no professional involvement with animal research)</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Other</li></ul> |
|--|

If other, please specify:
---------------------------

### AWERB Functioning

3. Are you assured to know that there is a legally required body responsible for animal welfare and ethical review?

Yes       No

Please explain your answer:

4. What do you think the role of an AWERB currently is?  
Please keep your response to under 500 words.

5. What do you think the role of an AWERB should be?  
Please keep your response to under 500 words.

6. **What the most important roles and responsibilities of AWERBs to ensure that they function effectively**, particularly relating to their duties regarding the 3Rs (replacement, refinement, and reduction) and training. **Please select all that apply.**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Promote a culture of care (internal & community)       | <input type="checkbox"/> Monitor project outcomes and identify 3Rs improvements      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Raise awareness of welfare & the 3Rs                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Support retrospective reviews and assessments               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Advise on 3Rs and share developments                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Support staff on welfare, ethics, and training              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Review and advise on project proposals (local insight) | <input type="checkbox"/> Advise on animal welfare (acquisition, care, use, rehoming) |

Please provide any further thoughts on the role and responsibilities of an effectively functioning AWERB:

7. **What the most important roles and responsibilities of the regulator, the Animals in Science Regulation Unit, in ensuring that AWERBs function effectively?** Particularly relating to their duties regarding the 3Rs (replacement, refinement, and reduction) and training. **Please select all that apply**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Monitoring and auditing AWERB performance | <input type="checkbox"/> Provide corrective actions where AWERBs are not functioning optimally |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Publishing general guidance notes         | <input type="checkbox"/> Provide clear guidance and interpretation of legal requirements       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Setting minimum standards for training    | <input type="checkbox"/> Setting minimum standards for CPD                                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Publishing best practice examples         |  |

Please provide any further thoughts on the role and responsibilities of the Regulator in ensuring that AWERBs function effectively:

8. Is there anything else that you would like to share with the Animals in Science Committee on the topic of the roles and responsibilities of AWERBs?