

Request Reference: 3105

FOI Request dated 28/02/2024

Request –

Please could you share the advice given by the AWERB to the establishment licence holder in the last 3 years specifically regarding replacements and alternative methods to animal testing. We note that the university is required by law ASPA Schedule 3, Part 2, paragraph 6 (4) to keep records of any advice given by the AWERB.

Response

The University of Hull's AWERB would discuss and provide guidance regarding replacement and alternative methods to animal testing within regular AWERB meetings. We have copied a relevant extract from the minutes held specific to this request as below –

Meeting Date 25th May 23 Extract –

NAME REDACTED* also queried the photography and in what way that helped reduce numbers. NAME REDACTED* explained that taking pictures helps to analyse the progress of wound healing over time against other animals and determine which animals (rather than all) will go on for further characterisation. This means overall fewer animals can be used.

**We have applied a partial Section 40 (2) – Personal Data, regarding names of those attending the meeting, and therefore have replaced their names with “redacted” to prevent identification. We believe that disclosure of the personal information relating to these individuals would be contrary to the requirements of Article 5 (1)(a) of the GDPR; namely that information must be processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner.*

Please note another time advice would be given is via the University AWERB tracker where we have in depth discussions about licence applications. Once the reviewers reach a conclusion, they provide a recommendation to the PELh who makes the final decision based on the comments and discussions with the applicant the stated recommendation.

Please also see information related to your request already in the public domain as per S21 (accessible by other means) –

- **Q13 - <https://www.hull.ac.uk/legal/docs/foi/other/2749-animal-experiments.pdf>**
- **Refer to Section 12 - <https://www.hull.ac.uk/work-with-us/research/site-elements/docs/code-of-good-research-practice.pdf>. We want to specifically highlight point 12:10 - “Researchers are required by law to consider the opportunities for Reduction, Replacement and Refinement of animal involvement in research – the principle of “The Three Rs”.**