

Animal Welfare Advisory Committee Visit to Dstl Porton Down
30th November 2004

<u>Attendees</u>	AWAC Members AWAC Point of Contact (POC) Other Members of Dstl Staff	
<u>Agenda Items</u>	<u>Summary</u>	<u>Actions</u>
<u>1. Minutes of the last meeting</u>	Minutes of the last meeting were accepted and all actions were closed.	
<u>2. Review of Ethical Process (ERP)</u>	<p>An AWAC member gave a presentation on this subject, posing the following questions to initiate a general discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the Dstl ERP address all relevant issues • How is the Dstl process assessed with regard to objectives <p>Another AWAC member commented on other ERP committees in other organisations. Some have virtual committees while others have committees that meet and examine papers.</p> <p>A Dstl member of staff outlined the Dstl ERP.</p> <p>An AWAC member asked if the results of the ethics committee meetings could be published. The TCL NBC confirmed he would be happy to publish a summary.</p> <p>There followed some discussion about the ERP. The TCL NBC said he was happy with the user group meetings that occurred as part of the ERP. He did not normally attend these meetings and this separation appeared to work satisfactorily.</p> <p>An AWAC member asked what the communication process was in the event that TCL NBC overrides the view of the Ethics Committee. TCL NBC said he could not think of an occasion when this had occurred. He acknowledged, however, that a feedback loop for this was needed and he would make arrangements for this to happen.</p> <p>The Committee commented on the effect of Dstl moving more staff to Porton Down as part of the site rationalisation programme. Many of these staff would not have been briefed on the animal work and consequently a programme of awareness on this topic will be introduced.</p>	
<u>3. Review of Scientific Publication list for 2004</u>	<p>A Dstl member of staff described the publication policy for the Porton site and the Dstl electronic publication scheme. A hard copy of the list is published some months after the end of the calendar year. AWAC confirmed it is content with this arrangement.</p> <p>Dstl said there was no mechanism for monitoring what is <u>not</u> published. AWAC said that any work on animals not published might lead to public concern. Dstl reassured AWAC that there was very little work on animals that was not published.</p>	
<u>4. Animal Accommodation</u>	<p>A Dstl member of staff reviewed the current position with regard to animal accommodation. The management structure for animal accommodation had been changed and he recommended that AWAC be accompanied on visits by the new unit supervisors.</p>	Dstl to arrange visits for future meetings.

UNCLASSIFIED

	<p>Following a description of the current arrangements, AWAC confirmed they would like to visit Building 9, Centre for Macaques during their meeting on March 2nd and the Experimental Animal House during their meeting on 15 June.</p> <p>The Committee met the new animal unit supervisors over lunch.</p>	
<p><u>5. Date of next Meeting</u></p>	<p>Wednesday 2nd March 2005.</p>	

AWAC Secretary
20 December 2004