

NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE PROTECTION OF ANIMALS USED FOR SCIENTIFIC PURPOSES: GUIDANCE ON THE ROLE OF THE INFORMATION OFFICER (IO)

Some IOs will have already been involved in the HPRA regulatory system and will already have completed formal training in their previous posts, so there may be no additional training needed.

For those involved in the role without prior training then training is recommended, although not obligatory under HPRA requirements.

It is recommended that at least the modular training in the legislation, ethics and 3Rs be completed:

- EU Education and Training Framework - Module 1: Legislative framework;
- EU Education and Training Framework - Module 2: Ethics, animal welfare and the 3Rs (Level 1); this will help to obtain an understanding of legal and ethical aspects of use of animals for scientific purposes and also covers the concepts and principles of the 3Rs;
- EU Education and Training Framework - Module 50: Introduction to the local environment (establishment), which gives a good understanding of the local structure for management and responsibility relating to animal use at your establishment; and
- EU Education and Training Framework also suggests that the IO completes aspects of Module 51 - Information provision and retrieval. When such a module exists, if not completed before the post is taken up, then this will be valuable CPD within the first six months to a year depending on prior knowledge and skills, and extent of role and other local support.

Continuing Professional Development (CPD) for the IO

A working knowledge of the contents of the following document from the European Commission will assist in the delivery of the outcomes required:

[A working document on the availability of information on the 3Rs](#) (2012).

You may wish to extend your skills by:

- Spending time reviewing the NC3Rs website and the links within it;
- Completing a suitable training module covering how to search, source, retrieve and store information; methods of searching; (e.g. see links to FRAME or SYRCLE in the Resources section of the Guidance on training and CPD for Information Officers document);
- Receiving other training on information searching, storing and retrieval;
- Spending time in discussion with knowledge management experts (e.g. information technologists, librarians);
- Completing EU Education and Training Framework - Module 9: Ethics, Animal Welfare and the 3Rs (Level 2), a component of PPL training, which may be useful in extending the basic knowledge of ethics and legislation;
- Attending a specific IO training course - if/when developed;
- Visiting animal facility(s);
- Attending topic specific LASA/LAVA/IAT/NC3Rs/RSPCA/UFAW meetings; and
- Undertaking soft skill training;
 1. How to talk to people and influence them
 2. Team-working
 3. Diplomacy

Extract from EU Document – Education & Training Framework

Initial training

Training should include searches for information and strategies for dissemination:

- LO 2.13: Describe relevant sources of information relating to ethics, animal welfare and the implementation of the 3Rs;
- LO 51.1: Be aware of different search tools (e.g. Go3Rs, EURL ECVAM Search Guide) and methods of search (e.g. Systematic reviews, meta-analysis);
- LO 51.2: Explain the importance of dissemination of study results irrespective of the outcome and describe the key issues to be reported when using live animals in research e.g. ARRIVE guidelines; and
- Module 50 - "Introduction to the local environment (establishment)".