

**National Committee for the Protection of Animals Used for Scientific  
Purposes (NCPA)**

**Report of the Meeting on 18 May 2017 at 10:30 am**

- 1. Declarations of Interest/Conflicts of Interest**  
There were no conflicts of interest declared.
- 2. Minutes**  
The minutes for the meeting of 20 September 2016 were approved and signed.
- 3. Matters Arising**  
The Chairman advised that he would be writing to the Irish Laboratory Animal Science Animal Association (ILASA) after this meeting in relation to the Information Officer role.
- 4. Report of the Meeting:**  
The report of the meeting of 20 September was adopted.
- 5. Publication of advice given to the HPRA on the use of two species in procedures**  
The NCPA adopted a document for publication which sets out the committee's earlier advice to the HPRA on the use of two species in procedures.
- 6. Committee update: Communications with Dept. of Health**  
The NCPA noted correspondence from the Dept. of Health in relation to the transposition of Directive 2010/63/EU in national legislation as it applies to the role of the 'Information Officer'.

It was noted that Regulation 49 of SI No. 543 of 2012 already provides that a person designated as an Animal Care and Welfare Officer may delegate any of his or her functions to '*other persons who [are] qualified by appropriate training and experience to perform them*'. Ultimately, it was the responsibility of the Compliance Officer to ensure that the tasks for the Information Officer were adequately performed and Animal Welfare Bodies (AWBs) should work with their Compliance Officers to ensure that this role was properly carried out. The NCPA considered that the HPRA could provide a useful service to AWBs by communicating this interpretation to them. The HPRA advised that it would consider including the item in one of future editions of its regulatory updates.

The NCPA asked that the matter be put on the agenda of its next meeting.

- 7. Overview of 3R Conference held by HPRA/Science Foundation Ireland/Health Research Board**  
The NCPA felt that the conference held on 17 May 2017 was a worthwhile and very well attended event. The NCPA conveyed its thanks to the HPRA for the work done in organising the conference.

**8. Outcome of Lunchtime Session between NCPA and AWB Members at 3Rs Conference – Next Steps**

In order to distil the many suggestions made during the lunchtime session between the NCPA and the AWBs, the Chairman proposed that a volunteer group should consider the issues further and propose five or six points that the NCPA could take forward in its workplan over the coming years. The NCPA agreed that that a sub-group of Members would consider the matter and would bring back proposals in time for the next meeting.

**9. Proposed Choice of Meeting Dates 2017 and 2018**

It was agreed that a Doodle Pool would be initiated to agree the next meeting, which is expected to take place during September.

**10. AOB**

A query on the reporting of a genetically altered (GA) line of mice that had a harmful phenotype was tabled. It was clarified that the breeding of GA animals which are likely to have a harmful phenotype requires a project authorisation, but that where such animals are killed at a stage before they develop disease symptoms, they need not be recorded retrospectively in the annual statistical returns as the harmful threshold was never reached (as the animals were culled prior to its development).

**11. Closed Session of NCPA (if required)**

A closed session of the NCPA was not required.

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Colm Gaynor  
CHAIRMAN

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DATE: