

National Committee for the Protection of Animals Used for Scientific Purposes

Report of the Meeting on 15 May 2024

1. Declarations of Interest/Conflicts of Interest
There were no conflicts of interest declared.
2. Introduction of new Chairperson and Members
The Chairperson introduced herself to new Members and in turn all Members provided a short update on their skills and expertise.
3. Report of the Meeting of 12 September 2023
The minutes of the meeting 12 September 2023 were adopted and approved.
4. Matters Arising
The Committee noted that since the last meeting a brochure detailing 'Tips for effective Animal Welfare Bodies' and another 'An introduction to Animal Welfare Bodies' has been published in hard and soft copy. A corresponding poster had also been developed. The Committee also noted the development of a brand logo to aid in recognising the Committee, and which will be used in presentations and correspondence.
5. Revised terms of reference and rules of procedure
An updated term of reference which includes the rules of procedure of the Committee was endorsed.
6. Review of activities and future workplan
The Committee considered its achievements over recent years and discussed how best to address future challenges.
The Committee noted that while good progress had been made in respect of refinement and reduction, there was a challenge to ensure that progress in replacement of animals was visible to researchers and taken up by them. The Committee will re-engage with national Animal Welfare Bodies to review how best to address their needs in the future.
7. Training event 2025
The Committee discussed a training event for stakeholders in May 2025. A subcommittee was formed to help brainstorm ideas and to organise it, with the support of the HPRA.
8. European network of Animal Welfare Bodies
The Committee was informed about the establishment of a European network of Animal Welfare Bodies (ENAWB) in April 2024. It was explained that the ENAWB had been established to promote the creation and awareness of Member State AWBs and to facilitate information sharing amongst them. However, as there is not a national AWB in Ireland, Ireland is not in a position to benefit from this network. The Committee will reflect on the position and whether there is an interest amongst current AWBs in Ireland to form a national association which would allow them to join the EU network.

9. Legislative updates – amendments to Annexes III and IV or Directive 2010/63/EU Page 2 of 2 The Committee noted that the legislation had been updated and the new requirements would require national implementation over the coming 2 years.
10. Forced swim test
The Committee noted the 2023 Report by the UK's Animals in Science Committee (ASC) providing advice and outlining ten recommendations on the use of the forced swim test (FST). The Committee was informed that the HPRA already implements the majority of the recommendations in Ireland.
11. Dates of next meetings
The date for the next meeting is 9 October 2024. The Committee also agreed meeting dates for 2025.
12. AOB
There was nothing to report.

ENDS