

National Committee for the Protection of Animals Used for Scientific Purposes

Report of the Meeting on 27 May 2021

1. Declarations of Interest/Conflicts of Interest
There were no conflicts of interest declared.
2. Report of the Meeting of 16 September 2020
The minutes of the meeting 16 September 2020 were adopted and approved.
3. Matters Arising
It was clarified that a document from the UK setting out the impact of Covid-19 on the welfare of animals housed or used in authorised establishments, and on the functioning of animal facilities and which proposed that animal welfare bodies should review the learnings on the effect of the pandemic for their systems had been issued by the HPRA following the last meeting.
4. EURL ECVAM Recommendation on Non-Animal-Derived Antibodies
The Committee considered the EURL ECVAM recommendation on the use of non animal derived antibodies.
The Committee discussed a concern that the recommendation might be potentially restrictive and whether National Competent Authorities (NCAs) are being limited in what they could authorise by the recommendations. The HPRA clarified that the recommendations are to ensure NCAs and users comply with the requirements that are already stated in Directive 2010/63/EU, including Article 4 and Article 13, where if a non-animal alternative is available then it must be used in place of an animal. The report consolidated the scientific evidence around these clauses in Directive 2010/63/EU. The HPRA had issued a communication to establishments on how requirements in Directive 2010/63/EU will be applied.
A query was raised in relation to the organisations that were listed in the Recommendation's appendix should be consulted. The HPRA clarified that the list is not exhaustive and that those organisations listed in the appendix are intended to assist applicants identify suitable organisations.
5. Update on implementation of Regulation (EU) 2019/1010 in relation to publication of Non-technical summaries
The Committee noted that a database of non-technical summaries (NTS) of projects that are authorised in the EU will be made publicly available by the EU Commission in July 2021. The database has been accepting submissions from national competent authorities since March 2021. A concern was expressed regarding the change in template, from the national template to the EU one. The European Commission has created a guidance document on the content of the NTS which is available publicly in draft form. The guidance relates solely to how to answer the questions in the template and what information should be provided. The European Commission will publish a questionnaire for end users to seek feedback on the usability, level of detail and the

usefulness of the guidance. Based on the feedback the guidance will be further reviewed. A final version of the guidance will be adopted in November, and published thereafter. It was clarified that feedback is being requested in relation only on the guidance document, and not to the template.

The HPRA has created a national guidance for the technical completion of the EU template including technical details regarding mandatory fields and word counts. The template links to a quality control website created by the European Commission, to check if a draft NTS will pass the validation criteria before it is submitted.

6. Training event September 2022

The Committee noted that since the last meeting of the National Committee a decision was taken to cancel the virtual training event scheduled for September 2021. The Committee members were asked to review the proposed programme for the in-person training event that will be scheduled for September 2022.

7. Date of next meeting

The proposed date for the next meeting in 2021 is Wednesday, 15 September 2021.

8. AOB

There was nothing to report.

ENDS.