



The Open  
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**Freedom-of-  
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6 May 2010

Dear Mr Paulley

**Freedom of Information Request - AEAG Minutes**

I have been advised by the Information Commissioner's Office that you were dissatisfied with the redactions made in the Minutes that were sent to you on 1 March 2010, especially Item 4 of the Minutes 08/5/M.

The University has reviewed what was sent to you and has decided that the redactions made to this item were not appropriate. I now enclose the relevant pages from the minutes, including a description of the redactions that remain on these pages.

The University has made the remaining redactions as it is refusing the specific information under Section 40 (2) of the Freedom of Information Act – Personal Information. This includes names of individuals and personal information about those individuals, including information which could identify individuals. The release of certain details could enable projects to be matched with other information that is in the public domain which could result in an individual being identified. The University wishes to reduce the risks of specific individuals becoming targets of activities intended to disrupt their activities or endanger their health and safety and so certain details are being refused under Section 38 of the Freedom of Information Act – Health and Safety.

Please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Beverley Midwood  
Senior Manager – Legislation and Information

Cc: Gemma Garvey, Information Commissioner's Office



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



The Open University

## ANIMAL ETHICS ADVISORY GROUP

Minutes of the Animal Ethics Advisory Group held on Monday 8 December 2008

Present: Names

In Attendance: Names

1 APOLOGIES Names

2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

AEAG/08/3/M

Amendment to AEAG/08/2, Name added to the attendance list. The AEAG approved the remaining minutes as a correct record of the last meeting held on Tuesday 7 October 2008.

3 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

4 LICENCE APPLICATION

AEAG/08/04/1

4.1 Name new project licence

Name gave a presentation and comprehensive overview of proposed research and answered questions posed by AEAG members. These are listed below plus other points of discussion:

- i. The research is a re-working of previous research carried out organisation and location

- ii. Amendments to make the title of the project clearer were suggested.
- iii. Re: section 17b, the collaboration with *name and organisation* is seen as important as *has* extensive research experience in the field.
- iv. *This is a description of the minute.*  
*There were comments about the type of animals to be used.*
- v. Re: section 11, it was suggested that a comparison of the later findings to those from the early stages of the research, would form a basis for producing more meaningful results.
- vi. AEAG members commented that the licence was very well put together.
- vii. It was **agreed** that the AEAG supported the application and as soon as *the issue raised in point iv* had been ascertained and minor amendments made, it would be sent to the University Secretary for signature and then sent to the Home Office.

## 5 SUCCESSION PLANNING AND AEAG MEMBERSHIP

- 5.1 *Name* has **agreed** to serve with AEAG for another year.
- 5.2 *Name* will continue to be a member of AEAG *description of role that could identify him/her.*
- 5.3 *Name and personal information...*, therefore the Dean of Science will be approached by the AEAG secretary to suggest candidates as a suitable replacement. The Chair thanked *name* for all her work for AEAG.

## 6 FILMING ANIMAL PROCEDURES

- 6.1 The Research Defence Society (RDS), now called Understanding Animal Research, (<http://www.understandinganimalresearch.org.uk/>), has made an initial approach to the OU about filming research carried out in the OU Biological Research Unit (BRU). RDS has approached a variety of organisations and would only film ongoing research, i.e. no research would be carried out solely for the sake of filming. Short video clips would then be posted on their web site with information about the importance of research involving the animals.
- 6.2 The Deputy Chair would contact RDS with an invitation to visit the OU in order to explain the context of the filming. This would follow on from the RDS seminar held at the OU in January 2008 (<http://intranet.open.ac.uk/strategy-unit/offices/ethics/Newsandevents.shtml>). If the filming were to be agreed by the BRU and the Life Sciences Department there may be further discussions required with other interested parties (e.g. Estates and the PVC (Research and Enterprise)).
- 6.3 The comment was made that such filming does occur in other organisations. Also that it could raise the awareness of OU research using animals, both positively and negatively. Concern was raised as to the wide distribution of the clips and whether they would be kept in context. In addition, would the OU support researchers if the filming goes ahead?