



Minutes of the Board meeting – 18 September 2024

Present

Professor Julia Buckingham (JB) *Chair*
Professor Cathy Abbot (CA)
Professor Christopher George (CG)
Ms Linda Horan (LH)
Professor Jane Hurst (JH)
Dr Tom Matheson (TM)
Professor Cathy Merry (CM)
Professor Nick Plant (NP)
Dr Sally Robinson (SR)
Dr Vicky Robinson (VR)
Dr Clive Roper (CR)
Dr Andrew Scott (AS)

Office members

Dr Katie Bates (KB)
Dr Nathalie Percie du Sert (NPdS) *item 4*
Ms Kayleigh Purdon (KP) *Secretariat*
Dr Suzanne McArdle (SMc)
Ms Emma Stokes (ES)

Welcome

1. JB welcomed members to the meeting, noting apologies from Professor Paul Evans.

Board minutes 16 July 2024

2. The minutes from the July meeting were agreed by Board members via email to be an accurate account of the discussions and published on the NC3Rs website on 16 September.

Chief Executive update

3. The Board noted the short oral update from VR on the external operating environment.

External environment

- JB and VR had recently participated in a roundtable hosted by Lord Vallance, Minister for Science, Research and Innovation on non-animal methods. VR informed the Board that Anthony Holmes,

the NC3Rs Director of Science and Technology would remain on secondment at the Office for Life Sciences for a further six months.

NC3Rs strategic review update

4. Following the Board meeting in July, VR and theme leads for research funding and innovation had developed three options for the Board to consider with a level core funding scenario. VR presented the options – the Board endorsed option 2 based on the flexibility it provided to offer various funding opportunities to support 3Rs model development and the NC3Rs mission, including the ability to leverage co-funding. VR informed the Board that additional scenarios would be presented at its next meeting to meet the requirement to model a 25% cut in funding. This was a closed session.
5. Plans for the next five years for the academic engagement and experimental design and reporting programmes were presented by NPdS. The Board were supportive of the proposals. This was a closed session.

AOB

6. There were no AOB items.