NC3Rs

National Centre
for the Replacement
Refinement & Reduction
of Animals in Research

NC3Rs Infrastructure for Impact Awards:
Board scoring criteria

This document is intended as a guide for Board members to score applications. It is essential that Board members consider a range of factors when deciding on the overall score for a proposal.

Board members must consider both the strategic need for the resource and strength of collaborations and the likely 3Rs impact should the proposed research be successful. In order to help Board members to determine a combined score for the need and 3Rs potential of an application, the NC3Rs uses the scoring system shown below.

The scoring system below should be used to determine the descriptors for both the strategic need and the potential 3Rs impact to provide an overall score to give an application. Board members should refer to the guidance when deciding on the appropriate descriptors .

STRATEGIC NEED	POTENTIAL 3Rs IMPACT				
	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Average	Not competitive
Excellent	10	9	8	7	5
Very Good	9	8	7	6	4
Good	8	7	6	5	3
Average	7	6	5	4	2
Not competitive	5	4	3	2	1

Guidance on scoring criteria

The following table should be used as guidance when determining the strategic need and 3Rs descriptors. The indicators are the types of issues that an application may address in order to fall into a specific category. However it is not necessary to meet all of the individual criteria as this is not intended to be prescriptive, but rather to provide a general framework.

Strategic need	3Rs
Excellent ▪ Crucial need for the resource/equipment to the host organisation or wider scientific community. ▪ Exceptional group of applicants and collaborators ▪ Potential for high return on investment ▪ Excellent likelihood of success ▪ Additional potential for high health and/or socioeconomic impact	**Excellent** Potential to have a very high impact on the 3Rs e.g.: ▪ Strategically important 3Rs area ▪ Replacing/reducing a large number of animals ▪ Refining a severe procedure (even if numbers ▪ affected are low) ▪ Will have a local impact* on animal use with a high likelihood of adoption by other groups nationally/internationally
Very Good ▪ Key need for the resource/equipment to the host organisation or wider scientific community. ▪ Very good group of applicants and collaborators ▪ Potential for significant return on investment ▪ High likelihood of successful delivery ▪ Additional potential for significant health and/or socioeconomic impact	**Very Good** Potential to have a high impact on the 3Rs e.g.: ▪ Strategically important 3Rs area ▪ Replacing/reducing a significant number of animals ▪ Refining a severe/moderate procedure (even if numbers affected are low) ▪ Will have a local impact* on animal use with a good likelihood of adoption by other groups nationally/internationally
Good ▪ Some need for the resource/equipment to the host organisation or wider scientific community. ▪ Appropriate group of applicants and collaborators ▪ Potential for return on investment ▪ Good likelihood of successful delivery ▪ Additional potential for significant health and/or socioeconomic impact	**Good** Potential to have a medium impact on the 3Rs e.g.: ▪ Addresses an important 3Rs concern ▪ Replacing/reducing a significant number of animals ▪ Refining a moderate procedure (even if numbers affected are low) OR refining a mild procedure where numbers are high ▪ Will have a local impact* on animal use with the likelihood of adoption by other groups nationally/internationally
Average ▪ Limited need for the resource/equipment to the host organisation or wider scientific community. ▪ Modest group of applicants and collaborators ▪ Limited return on investment ▪ Moderate likelihood of successful delivery ▪ No additional potential for significant health and/or socioeconomic impact	**Average** Potential to have a low/medium impact on the 3Rs e.g.: ▪ Addresses a 3Rs concern ▪ Replacing/reducing a low number of animals ▪ Refining a mild/unclassified procedure ▪ May have a local impact* on animal use but unlikely to be adopted by other groups
Not competitive ▪ No need for the resource/equipment to the host organisation or wider scientific community. ▪ Poor group of applicants and collaborators ▪ No return on investment	**Not competitive** Will have no (or a very low) impact on the 3Rs e.g.: ▪ Does not address a 3Rs concern ▪ Will not replace/reduce any animal use ▪ Does not refine a classified procedure ▪ Will not have a local impact* on animal use or be adopted by other groups

*Local impact refers to: within an applicant's own laboratory and/or institution.