

22 March 2018, 1430, Cairo Room, Greenwich House

Present: Dr M Wills (Chairman), Dr M Vinnell (Secretary) *from 3.00pm*, Mr R Borthwick (invited) Dr G Christie, Professor P Cicuta, Dr A Clarke, Mr M Elsdon, Mr T Fitzmaurice, Mrs M Gentry, Dr A Gilliland, Mr T Jones, Dr K Tibbles, and Dr L Tiley

In attendance: Ms L Dopson

1 Apologies for absence

Dr W Gatome, Dr J Kumita, Dr G Martell, Professor S Ozanne, and Ms L Smith.
Apologies were received from Ms R Williams Jones retrospectively.

2 Minutes of the Sub-committee meeting held on 25 January 2018

The Chairman informed the Sub-committee that one small amendment had now been made to the second paragraph of Minute 7.4 since the Minutes had originally been circulated to members. A section in this paragraph had been reworded to now read 'This is an HG3 zoonotic pathogen...' The original reference to it coming from Lanzarote had been removed. The Minutes were then approved and signed by the Chairman.

3 Matters arising from the Minutes

Minute 21: Information (Meeting of 19 October 2017)

The Chairman read out an update that had been sent to the Sub-committee by Ms Smith in Occupational Health in regard to the future availability and purchase of Hep B vaccine. Once a new system for purchase has been established, Occupational Health will work on the backlog of staff/students for whom vaccination was deferred in 2017. Also, in accordance with new advice from Public Health England (PHE), boosters of Hep B will no longer be routinely required in healthy, immunocompetent adults who have completed a primary course of vaccine. Occupational Health plan to write to individuals, as their five year boost is due, in order to inform them of this change in the guidelines.

There were no other matters arising that do not appear elsewhere on the Agenda.

4 Biological Compliance

4.1 SAPO

Dr Gilliland reported that there were no major changes to report since the previous Sub-committee meeting. However, she is anticipating a new risk assessment from the Department of Veterinary Medicine for proposed work on a SAPO3 agent. She has spoken to an HSE Inspector who has advised that she applies to the HSE as a variation to the current SAPO licence. As it will be a SAPO3 agent, the HSE will inspect the premises before any work can commence.

4.2 Human Tissue Act

Dr Gilliland informed the Sub-committee that there were two person designate (PD) changes to report: Gurdon Institute and Satellite No 1 Old Addenbrooke's Site was Rick Livesey, but is now Eric Miska; Physics Department was Sarah Bohndiek, but is now Pietro Cicuta. HTA have seen and approved these changes.

- 4.3 **Counter-Terrorism**
Dr Gilliland reported that CTSA had made a routine annual visit to Pathology on 9 March 2018. Mr Elsdon, who attended this visit, said that no issues had been identified.
- 4.4 **Reports on Visits and Inspections (HSE/Defra)**
Dr Gilliland reported that an APHA (Fera) Inspector, Sue Lacey, had visited the Department of Biochemistry on 7 March 2018. This was a routine annual inspection of Professor Salmond's licensed plant pathogen work. It was believed that no actions were needed.
- 4.5 **Biological Safety Officers**
Dr Gilliland reported that all letters of appointment were up-to-date. She also wished members to note that the MRC Toxicology Unit had joined the University on 1 March 2018 and that a BSO would be identified to add to the University list.
- 4.6 **Biological Annual Safety Questionnaire (ASQ)**
Dr Gilliland reported that the completed questionnaires were up-to-date now.
- 4.7 **Containment Level 3**
Dr Gilliland reported that a meeting of a sub-section of the CL3 Working Group had taken place on 20 March 2018 in order to enable the work to be picked up following Linda Hinton-Mead's retirement. It is planned that, in due course, the Working Group will be re-convened to include all the original members together with Graham Christie and Pietro Cicuta. Jillian Deans from LMB will also be invited.
- The Chairman reported that work on the CL3 Capella facility had stalled as the contractors, who were linked to Carillion, went out of business in January. He believes that a new contractor has now been appointed, but this will lead to a delay in completion of the building.
- 5** **Training**
- 5.1 **Annual BSO Event (Tuesday 15 May 2018)**
The Chairman read out what was planned so far for this Event:
- HSE has been invited, but they do not know yet if they will be able to send somebody.
 - PHE will be giving a talk on zoonoses.
 - ROO will be giving a talk on Material Transfer Agreements (MTAs) regarding biological materials.
 - The Chairman will be giving a talk about the terminology used on accident/incident report forms.
 - It is hoped that an update will also be given by Occupational Health, but this has yet to be confirmed.
- Dr Gilliland asked members for ideas on further topics. Dr Tiley suggested it would be good to have a talk on the policy regarding permitting pregnant or immuno-compromised people to work with certain pathogens. He suggested that, if a talk was not possible, then it would be useful to at least get the information from Occupational Health so that it could be disseminated to BSOs. Dr Tibbles felt that it would be a good idea to broaden the subject to encompass health issues generally such as epilepsy. He informed the members that a new sub-committee was being

formed on accessibility and there might be useful links between the two committees here.

Dr Tiley also suggested that risk assessing fieldwork would be a very useful topic. Dr Gilliland said that this was a topic that had just been covered at the DSO Event by Will Hudson.

The Chairman invited members to contact Dr Gilliland with any other ideas for speakers that they might have for the BSO Event.

Action:

- **Dr Gilliland to finalise details of the BSO Event**
- **Dr Gilliland to obtain guidelines from Occupational Health regarding pregnant and immuno-compromised people working with certain pathogens and circulate them to BSOs**

5.2 IATA

The Chairman informed the members that the 6.2 course will be running on 5 July 2018. This course runs each year, but the full course only runs on alternate years and therefore will next run in 2019.

6 Accidents/Incidents

Dr Gilliland gave a short update to members following on from the Minutes of the January 2018 Sub-committee meeting:

- Regarding the Brucella HG2 agent, MRC MBU had subsequently found some further samples and sent these to Veterinary Medicine. Further tests have revealed that it was likely to be a false positive identification.
- Regarding the Influenza virus incident at Veterinary Medicine, it had been deemed that there was no release and therefore the incident was not RIDDOR-reportable.

3.00pm *The Secretary arrived at the meeting*

Dr Gilliland drew members' attention to the wording on the accident report regarding these two incidents. She also reminded members that space for text is very restricted on the accident database and that the wording on the accident reports for the Sub-committee can only be a summary of the incident and that it is not always possible to capture all the details of the accident/incident on the printout. Further details can always be provided upon request.

Dr Gilliland reported that, subsequent to the MRC Cancer Unit and Pathology incidents identified on the accident report that went to the January 2018 Sub-committee meeting, both eye splash incidents were followed up and risk assessments obtained for both incidents.

Dr Tibbles sought clarification regarding discussion of accidents/incidents at the Sub-committee meetings. The Chairman responded that, if a particular accident/incident was identified at the pre-meeting held between the Chairman and the Secretary as requiring further discussion, then the relevant School Safety Officer would be notified, prior to the Sub-committee meeting.

7

Reports

7.1

Report from Sub-committee for Chemical Safety

Dr Tiley had nothing to report as the Chemical Safety Sub-committee was not due to meet until 27 March 2018.

7.2

Report from Estate Management

- Mr Borthwick spoke to the report (*Paper BS/1718/17*) tabled at the meeting. He explained that the log books for managing water safety continue to be issued.
- They have somebody starting on 9 April 2018 who will be helping to manage this over a period of 9 months in order to get the remaining log books up and running.
- An interim contract has now been signed with Tetra Consulting Ltd to provide training, audit and emergency support. The training will be provided via the Safety Office (as with the current asbestos training).
- Lack of time has hampered progress over the last few months.
- With the buildings that were assessed really early on the risk is now reducing.
- Forthcoming work will be carried out at the University Centre with the Centre being closed over Easter to enable this to take place.
- Design works at Chemistry are progressing and have been issued for review with a view to moving into a tender process later this year.

The Secretary expressed his concern with regard to this report in that no dates for completion of key stages of the work had been given, and that multiple areas of compliance work were described as 'ongoing'. The Secretary requested clarification of the timeline for this work.

The Chairman spoke about the two action points from the January 2018 Sub-committee meeting regarding producing a timeline for the roll out of the log books and other work being carried out and also producing a report on current EM water safety management. Mr Jones responded that a report had been produced for CCFS. He then agreed that that particular report needed to be re-circulated back to this Sub-committee.

The Chairman summarised the pressing issues:

- Concern over lack of dates and non-compliance
- Production of timeline and log books needed
- The report produced for CCFS to be re-circulated to this Sub-committee

Action:

- **Mr Jones to produce a timeline for the roll out of the log books and other work being carried out**
- **Mr Jones to circulate to this Sub-committee the report he produced for CCFS on current EM water safety management**

7.3

Report from the Safety Officer, School of the Biological Sciences

Use of Scalpels/Replaceable Blades in PDN Human Dissection Room

Following on from the previous Sub-committee meeting in January 2018, Mr Elsdon gave an update on his investigation into the use of scalpels and replaceable blades in PDN. He had met with the Human Anatomy facilities team to check what safeguards are currently in place:

- Human DR classes comprise of approximately 150 students. Each student is provided with a student handbook (on Moodle) which includes a written statement about sharps safety.

- Students receive instruction on sharps safety from an anatomist at the start of the academic year, and during the appropriate thorax dissection session.
- After Christmas, the students are made aware of the additional risk of cuts from ribs when working in the thoracic cavity.
- 8-9 Senior and 4-5 Junior Anatomy Demonstrators are present per dissection session. These comprise of retired consultant surgeons, retired anatomists and current clinical fellows training in surgical specialities. They oversee and give guidance to students when handling sharps at each dissection session.
- PDN is reviewing its sharps training to students and intend to create a video on the consequences of sharps injuries which can be made available at orientation, and on Moodle.

Dr Gilliland asked if the students use disposable blades. Mr Elsdon did not know, but confirmed that the use of scalpels/blades is carried out in a highly controlled environment.

Incident in Pathology (Virology Division)

Mr Elsdon previously reported that Electron Microscopy of HeLa M cells had revealed the presence of viral particles which were subsequently identified as being Mason Pfizer Monkey Virus. The Department implemented controls to contain these at CL2, pending investigation. Advice was sought from a number of retrovirologists. It was concluded that these cells were very unlikely to pose a risk to humans. The Departmental Biological Safety Committee agreed that this cell line could be handled at CL1. Nevertheless, where practical, alternative uncontaminated HeLa cell lines should be used. Other users of HeLa M cells were made aware.

7.4 Report from the Safety Officer, School of Clinical Medicine
Dr Tibbles had nothing to report.

7.5 Stevenage Bioscience Catalyst (SBC)

The Chairman informed the members that SBC had reported that the project from Professor Lever with Dr Ingemarsdotter (and formerly also Sophia Ho) working on site has now finished and Dr Ingemarsdotter has now left the SBC. HEFCE project reference RG74090.

Dr Gilliland informed the Sub-committee that Jo Kandler from SBC had attended the DSO Event that morning and had informed her that, although the SBC is continuing, they are not sure how the University of Cambridge is going to continue its relationship with SBC. This matter is still under discussion.

7.6 Report from Consultative Committee for Safety (CCFS)

The Chairman reported that he had been unable to attend the last CCFS meeting. Dr Tibbles who had been present at the meeting reported that there had been a discussion on following up eye incidents.

8 Date of meetings for 2018-2019 academic year

The Chairman informed the members that as from October 2018 Dr Gilliland will be taking over as Secretary of the Biological Safety Sub-committee. He also reminded members that this Sub-committee will move to a Monday afternoon in future. The dates for the following academic year will be as follows:

- Monday 15 October 2018

- Monday 21 January 2019
- Monday 1 April 2019

All meetings will take place in the Cairo Room at Greenwich House starting at 1430.

9 Date of next meeting

Monday 15 October 2018 in the Cairo Room at Greenwich House starting at 1430.

The meeting closed at 1525.