

13 October 2020, 1130, Microsoft Teams meeting

Present: Dr B Blacklaws (Chair), Dr I Boros, Dr I Henderson, Dr S Hoer, Dr G Martell, Mr A Moss, Dr X Moya, Dr S Stranks, Dr K Tibbles, Mr S Yates and Ms L Yates (Secretary)

1. Apologies for absence

Ms A Dahal, Mr M Elsdon, Dr G Whish, Dr M Vinnell

2. Minutes

Minutes of the Sub-committee meeting held on 21 January 2020 were agreed and signed.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

- (i) Minute 13 (ii), 12.04.16: High Cross Waste Store - The Secretary reported that on the 19 October 2020 work will begin on site. It is a modular building designed to be moveable to a different location if necessary, and building work is due to be finished in early 2021.
- (ii) Minute 5 (ii), 22.01.19: WBIC Engineering review – Dr Boros reported that an Electrical Engineer has been appointed.
- (iii) Minute 6 (iv), 02.04.19: Addenbrooke's Trust Radiopharmacy/University Radiology Department - The Secretary reported that the outstanding action is for an RPS to be appointed for the University of Cambridge Department of Radiology. Dr Tibbles to follow this up with the Department.
- (iv) Minute 7, 15.10.19: Veterinary School mobile MRI arrangements – The Secretary reported on the facility operated by an independent company. A visit has not yet been possible. The documents were reviewed and although suitable arrangements are in place, some additions to the risk assessment are advised under the Control of EMF at Work Regulations 2016. Information has been given to the Department to forward to the operator.

4. Membership and Remit

- (i) Remit
 - Typo noticed on number 6 (change 'and' to 'any') - to be amended.
 - 'Academic' representatives to be added under School nominations.
- (ii) Membership - Dr Barbara Blacklaws to remind School of Veterinary Medicine to send a copy of her Membership appointment letter to the Safety Office.

5. Accidents and Incidents

The Secretary provided information on the accident / incidents reported to the Sub-committee.

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6. Report from EARRPS

Mr Yates reported the following:

Vet School - Three yearly X-ray equipment tests were carried out in October 2019 and are next due in 2022.

MRC Epidemiology

- IRR/IRMER audit is carried out every 3 years – last done 6th Nov 2019.
- Based on previous agreements, EARRPS would have been due to provide a three-yearly RP refresher training session this summer. However, it is understood that none of the DXA units have been operational since March, and there are no immediate plans to re-introduce scanning. Refresher training to be confirmed once future plans become clearer. In the meantime, routine equipment surveys have also been temporarily postponed, as below.
- Four DXAs at three sites:
 - ATC (DXA006) – Due Aug 2022
 - ATC (DXA014) – Due in Dec 2021
 - PoW Ely (DXA025) – Due May 2020, but postponed as Ely site not currently in use
 - Wisbech (DXA008) – Due Mar 2022.

WBIC IRMER Support - As discussed at the last meeting, to optimise the use of Ga-68 DOTOTATE produced by CUH Radiopharmacy, Luigi Aloj has proposed WBIC staff draw up two administrations per supplied vial; one for PET-MR research scans and one for PET-CT clinical scans using the CUH PET-CT scanner. Minor changes to the WBIC IRMER Employer Procedures were required as a result and these have been implemented as an Addendum to the existing procedures.

Ga68 Work in CUH Radiopharmacy - Further to discussion at the last meeting, there is ongoing work to address the inadequate local shielding in the CUH Ga-68 isolator which is used by a member of University staff. Use of additional lead castles will be made, followed by a re-evaluation of the risk assessment to reflect this. Further environmental monitoring around the Ga-68 isolator is also currently being carried out by EARRPS/Radiopharmacy.

Other Updates – ARSAC - A new online portal is now in use

(<https://digitaltools.phe.org.uk/servicedesk/customer/portal/22>) for the approval of new research studies from ARSAC. Applicants can submit and monitor the progress of their applications, respond to queries and share access to their submissions with colleagues. The documentation required is unchanged. The changes are summarised in a new Sept 2020 version of the ARSAC guidance notes.

7. Laser and other non-ionising radiations

The Secretary reported to the Sub-committee that laser audits were discontinued due to COVID-19. The next Laser Safety Officer meeting is expected to be held in January via Microsoft Teams as for other laser safety training which continues to be provided.

8. Training Courses

- (i) RPS Update meeting 2020 - The Secretary reported the March meeting was cancelled and the next would take place in April 2021 (online if necessary).



- (ii) RPS two-day course 2020 – Discussions have taken place with EARRPS on how to proceed with this course. Previous plans were to have recorded lectures and retain some face to face teaching, but due to recent developments it is expected that the course will be online only with some practical exercises recorded on video.

The Secretary reported that training provision via Microsoft Teams is working reasonably well but the Safety Office looks forward to more technical support in developing online training in the future.

9. Building & Infrastructure

- (i) Anne McLaren Building - The Secretary reported there have been discussions regarding delivery/transport of radioactive materials to that building with some radiation work expected to commence shortly.
- (ii) Biomedical Campus Atria - Dr Tibbles reported he had been in contact with the Technical Liaison Officer regarding various aspects of the project. Discussions have included requirements for EA laboratory standards and these will be checked during and after the build.
- (iii) Toxicology Unit / Hadar - The Secretary visited on 03/06/20 and although requirements for laboratory standards had been made clear during planning meetings, some changes had been made and issues came to light during final fit. Assurance has been provided that these have now been rectified.
- (iv) Department of Physics - The Secretary reported that no further information was currently available but this item will remain on the agenda.
- (v) National Institute of Agriculture Botany (NIAB)/Plant Sciences - Dr Henderson reported the new Crop Science Centre has opened. He had received a request regarding radiation use, but it was understood that this work could be carried out in the Central Site Department of Plant Sciences premises. Discussion took place regarding possible future radiation work by University staff and students at the Crop Science Centre. It was noted that any radiation work must be discussed well in advance due to the fact an EPR Permit is not in place for this site.

10. Environment Agency

COVID EA Regulatory Position Statement – reporting requirements for accumulation breaches; The Secretary reported that both the EA issued Regulatory Statements in recognition that, due to COVID, compliance with certain aspects of the regulations may not be achievable, and setting out arrangements for reporting potential breaches. Two breaches were subsequently reported to EA under the conditions of the Regulatory Position Statement on the basis that accumulation periods specified under the permits had been exceeded: the Department of Psychology on the Central site (RPS unable to retrieve waste which was left securely in a laboratory) and the University of Cambridge Toxicology Unit in Leicester (due to the University of Leicester being unable to carry out any waste collections and reported by the University of Leicester RPA/RWA to their local Inspector).

EA Inspection, Toxicology Unit, 6 February 2020; the Toxicology Unit was inspected by the local regional Inspector and no issues were raised (RASCAR received). Discussions included arrangements for the surrender of the University of Cambridge EPR Permit, with remaining radiation work to be done under the University of Leicester permit prior to the



Unit's move to Cambridge. EA agreed to the proposed arrangements and the University of Cambridge Permit was successfully surrendered in August 2020.

CTSA inspections, Central Site, March 2020; cancelled due to COVID.

CTSA CRUK-CI, 17 August 2020; the requested visit to CRUK-CI in August went ahead with COVID safety measures in place. No issues were raised.

EA Inspections, Huntingdon Road University Units, West Cambridge Site; EA have requested remote/virtual "inspections" in place of on-site inspections.

The EA inspector agreed that further review of arrangements (inspection) of the Huntingdon Road Units was not currently needed on the basis of information provided by the RPA/RWA, including confirmation that no radiation work had been carried out on site for 5 years (the inspector plans to document a RASCAR – not yet received). It has not yet been established as to whether any unsealed source radiation work might recommence in the next few years, and if not, the site EPR Permit may need to be surrendered.

An EA inspection (virtual) of the West Cambridge Site unsealed source Permit covering the Department of Veterinary Medicine and the Innes building was requested by EA (expected October/November 2020).

Permit variation High Cross waste store; the Secretary noted that this Permit had been varied to accommodate the temporary store needed during building.

11. Health and Safety Executive

COVID HSE Regulatory Position Statement reporting requirements; the Secretary reported that the HSE statement covers certain aspects of the regulations which HSE considered may not be achievable due to COVID. Departments have been reminded that the HSE 'statement' expired 10 July 2020 so departments must ensure compliance with IRR17.

International Atomic Energy Authority Integrated Regulatory Review Mission report: this review covered all radiation regulatory agencies and their work in the UK. The Secretary noted that the report identified areas for further improvement which have implications for regulation of university work, including the following:

- HSE, HSENI and ONR should improve their regulatory oversight of occupational exposures, especially their processes for granting consent for high-risk activities.
- HSE and other relevant regulatory authorities should develop long term inspection programs.

12. Resignations and New Appointments

Resignations and appointments were noted.
Department of Radiology RPS to be appointed.

13. Meetings Attended

The Secretary reported on virtual meetings attended, including liaison meetings with other Universities.

14. Other Business

- (i) Transport – CDG 09 (19) Radiological Emergencies Transport; The Secretary reported that certain aspects of 2019 amendments to CDG came into force in April



2020 relating to emergency arrangements. Most transport activities carried out by the University are exempt from these requirements with very few exceptions. An ONR review of CDG was expected in August 2020, possibly delayed due to COVID. Mr Yates reported that the requirements for radiation emergencies do not apply to the hospital as transport activities are below the limits and an inspection in 2019 confirmed ONR were satisfied with that approach.

- (ii) Central site source removal 30 July 2020; a significant sealed source was removed.
- (iii) Medical Physics Expert Transition Scheme; the Secretary noted that this is now in force. MPEs must apply by the end of August 2021 for 5 year re-certification. Although MPE advice is provided by EARRPS for certain work, the MPE for WBIC is Dr Fryer (Director of PET Acquisition & Analysis).
- (iv) Audits; currently discontinued but plans to commence some audits.
- (v) JSaRC irradiator replacement proposal; The consultation has not progressed as expected, however, a PHE contract report has been issued and the Government is expected to commence the scheme to assist in replacing sealed source irradiators with X-ray irradiators with some exceptions to allow for specific work that requires the use of sealed sources.

Our thanks to Mr Andrew Moss for his many active years in the Sub-committee. His contributions have been extremely valuable to the University and the committee. The Sub-committee wish him well in his retirement.

15. Dates of next meeting

Tuesday 19th January 2021 and Tuesday 13th April 2021 at 11.00am (Microsoft Teams)