

SCOTTISH ACCREDITATION BOARD

Newsletter Winter 2023



Photograph Courtesy Professor Stephen Phillips

2023 has proved to be a year of change for both the Accrediting Bodies and Training Providers. Despite these changes, the courses have all run very smoothly and to a uniformly high professional standard. There are several updates outlined below for your attention and information which you may find useful:

Latest updates

1. Additional course information

As a result of discussions between the Home Office and the Accrediting Bodies, a new revised Training and CPD document has been produced under ASPA. As a result, it has been necessary for SAB to request some additional information to conform with these new Home Office requirements. The extra information we now require to keep is:

- a. advice from trainers of any teachers/staff changes on their accredited courses between accreditation or interim visits and providing brief CVs of new teachers/staff;
- b. trainers to advise us in brief of the results of their assessments for each course;
- c. provide a summary of trainees' feedback for each course.

An email has been sent to all trainers recently with further information and clarification on the above. This has included that full CVs do not need to be provided, but what is required is evidence that trainers have the appropriate background, experience, and skills to deliver the training. CVs for all current active trainers have

also been requested to ensure that our records are full and up to date. Regarding results and feedback, this information should be provided at least annually but can be after each course if that is easier. It can also be in any format. It is expected that this information would be collected as part of a course anyway and SAB would like to make it as easy as possible to provide without causing trainers any extra work.0000000

2. SAB AGM

The Scottish Accreditation Board AGM was held in Edinburgh on 1st June 2023. All current Officers and members of the Board were re-elected and agreed to continue to serve except for Tim King who has resigned unfortunately due to ill health The Board wishes to thank Tim for all his hard work whilst serving on the Board.

3. Training and Accreditation Stakeholder Group (TASG) Update

As many of you will know there have been meetings, mostly virtual, between the HO and accreditors, and HO, accreditors, and training providers in respect to the revised 'Training and CPD Guidance.'

After more than 20 years during which the accreditors and the trainers have kept the show on the road, effectively preparing trainees for their application for a PIL or PPL, despite rather than because of the assistance of the HO (with the honourable exception of Dr Kathy Ryder), the HO has decided that they should be regulating the work of trainers and accreditors. To that end the HO is to set up a process for monitoring the work of the Accreditors on a regular basis. Who will do the assessment of the accreditors is not decided, and the process and frequency are under discussion. SAB is not against our work being scrutinised but there are consequences such as additional administrative costs which we would have to pass on in the cost of certificates. You know we are all volunteers and are not paid for our work (see later). One consequence of an early revision of the Guidance by the HO, because of the insistence of the HO removing anything 'EU,' was the numbering of the LO's. This reflected on how little the HO is aware of the work of the trainers.

That has been partially reversed in that the the LO's do have numbers again but they are now in Roman numerals. We do NOT expect you to change your numbering of the LO's in your training material.

We are expecting another meeting with the HO in the early New Year, and it is likely the ABs will have a face-to-face meeting in London ahead of this.

Another issue the HO is concerned about is the sustainability of ABs on the basis that the members are not paid. The HO is surprised by the altruism of the members of the ABs and have asked ABs to give thought to the consequences of AB members being paid, and the impact on the cost of certificates. SAB does not see this element being implemented in the near future.

4. TAWG Update

TAWG will be meeting in early January to discuss the latest additions to Module 1 (Law) questions, the numbers of questions per module that realistically test a satisfactory proportion of learning outcomes, measuring the difficulty of questions and the role of 'Killer' or Key questions. The meeting will be hosted by the Royal Society of Biology in London.

5. Form Updates

As a result of the new training and CPD guidelines the accreditation forms are in the process of being reviewed. We hope any changes made will be relatively minor and not cause the Training Providers any extra work.

6. Latest Website Updates

- a. UK Home Office Statistics – The Home Office have released the statistics on animal usage in 2022. These include the number of animals used in scientific, medical, and veterinary research. The figures show that 2,761,204 procedures were carried out in Great Britain in 2022 which was 10% less than in 2021. In 2022, 97% of procedures were carried out on mice, rats, fish, and birds. Only 0.23% of all procedures were carried out on cats, dogs, and primates. <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/statistics-of-scientific-procedures-on-living-animals-great-britain-2022>.
- b. Position Statement on Cosmetic Testing –
The NC3Rs have put out a statement explaining the position on cosmetic testing in the UK which appears to be a shift in government policy <https://nc3rs.org.uk/use-animals-cosmetic-testing-including-reach-regulation>
The Government announced that no new licences will be granted for animal testing of chemicals that are exclusively intended to be used as ingredients in cosmetics products. The Minister wrote a statement setting this out and can be found here: <https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-statements/detail/2023-05-17/hcws779>
A further statement was released by the NC3Rs in response to the Ministerial statement effectively banning the testing of cosmetic ingredients in animals for the purpose of worker protection. Please see <https://nc3rs.org.uk/worker-and-environmental-safety-assessment-cosmetic-ingredients>
- c. Insect Welfare Research Society (Invertebrate Sentience) - <https://bitily/birchentolive>

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of myself and SAB Board members to wish you all a very happy Christmas and New Year.

Cathy Godfrey: SAB Company Secretary

