

Cylch Gorchwyl y Pwyllgor/Committee Terms of Reference:

Pwyllgor Diogelwch Biolegol a Addasiadau Genetig

Biological Safety and Genetic Modification Committee

Reports to:

Aberystwyth University Health, Safety and Environment Operational Group

Minutes are circulated to all relevant Departmental Executive Groups and the Faculty of Earth and Life Sciences Executive Group (for information).

Occurrence: 3 times a year

| <u>Members:</u> | <u>In attendance:</u> |
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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Chair – Academic Lead - Dr Arwyn Edwards Biological Safety Officer - Dr Chris Pirson GM Officer – Robert Darby Health, Safety & Environment (Scientific) Advisor – Caroline FitzPatrick <p><i>Members selected to represent the different areas of biological hazard use:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> IBERS: Valerie Rodrigues IBERS: Gancho Slavov IBERS: Dr. David Bryant Department of Life Sciences: Dr. Amanda Gibson Department of Life Sciences: Dr Gordon Allison Department of Life Sciences: Dr Rhys Thatcher Department of Psychology: Dr José Carli Aberinnovation: Andrew Rowbottom Hilary Worgan Vet School: Jim Scott-Baumann Nursing School: vacant Department of Computer Science: Dr Wayne Aubrey Post Graduate Student Representative: Alice Phillips EFR Representative: Andrea James | <p>At the discretion of the Chair other University officers/staff, as may be appropriate, shall be invited to attend meetings.</p> <p>Clerk: Jackie Sayce</p> <p>In the absence of the appointed Chair, one of the officers shall temporarily assume the chair.</p> <p><u>Quorum:</u> 8 members</p> <p><u>Occurrence:</u> Three times a year. Additional meetings will be arranged as required to meet the level of demand of new proposals requiring approval.</p> |

Remit:

The Biological Safety and Genetic Modification Committee has oversight of all activity which may present a genetically modified or biological risk. It will assess the proposed containment category and classification of activity and provide peer review of any proposal of work through the risk assessment process. The Committee serves the purpose of being the formal body for evaluating and advising Genetic Modification Risk Assessments as specified in the SACGM Compendium of Guidance. The Committee will review the arrangements, providing assurances to the University the arrangements are adequate or identified improvements are planned and/or escalate any barriers to achieving the improvements, as necessary.

Terms of reference:The committee will:

- Provide information, support, expertise, technical guidance, and advice for all staff working with biological and GMO materials.
- Receive all biological safety and GMO risk assessments for Aberystwyth University.
- Thoroughly peer review, in a timely manner, every risk assessment involving intentional use of biologically hazardous materials and GMO's, in conjunction with relevant legislation. (Risk assessments shall be peer reviewed by a minimum of 2 committee members and when necessary, considered via a risk assessment subgroup, which is made up of the officers to the committee. Where there is a conflict of interest, risk assessments for GM matters will be approved by the GM officer and risk assessments for Biological safety matters will be approved by the Biological Safety officer).
- Provide final approvals for all biological safety and GMO risk assessments for Aberystwyth University prior to commencing work.
- Mentor and guide appropriate risk control measures for biological and GMO risk assessments.
- Maintain a list of all biological and GMO activities with associated risk assessments for audit purposes.
- Review all near misses, accidents, incidents, or unintended releases of biological and GMO hazards, as reported to the committee by the Health, Safety and Environment Team.
- Identify and monitor trends to prevent recurrence and reduce the likelihood of future incidents.
- Monitor the effectiveness of existing policies in respect to the use of biological and GMO hazards and to recommend changes where necessary.
- Assist with periodic safety audits and inspections of the workplace in accordance with the level of risk.
- Receive reports from, and make recommendations to, the appropriate individuals following periodic safety audits and inspections.
- To recommend changes to work processes with a view to implementing best practice and compliant working practices.
- To provide reports, support, or advice to the Health and Safety Operational Group as necessary.
- To invite such persons as are necessary to attend the Committee meetings to give specialist/expert advice.

Contact details:

Cadeirydd | Chair: Dr Arwyn Edwards aye@aber.ac.uk

Clerc | Clerk: Jackie Sayce jgs@aber.ac.uk

Email: Biological-gm-committee@aber.ac.uk

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