



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

Introducing the 3Rs self-assessment tools

18 June 2018

Background: organisational 3Rs culture

Experience and stakeholder feedback* highlights that the extent of 3Rs implementation within UK research organisations varies – despite funding body expectations, the regulatory framework, and external accreditation.

Reasons include:

- Poor awareness of what is sufficient in terms of 3Rs activity
- The size, culture and complexity of some organisations
- Lack of adequate leadership, management and systems in some cases
- Named persons being overwhelmed, time limited, and/or poorly informed
- Information provision being sporadic and poorly tailored
- Some researchers still not being engaged with the 3Rs agenda

*Interviews for development of NC3Rs vision

NC3Rs vision 2015-2025

NC3Rs Vision for 2025: All universities and other institutions have a framework for supporting the 3Rs that delivers benefits to scientists and animals

We will: Support institutions to implement a culture that actively promotes the 3Rs and engages staff at all levels of responsibility

In practice: Develop a 3Rs self-assessment tool and appoint regional managers



3Rs self-assessment tools

3Rs self-assessment tools – development process

- NC3Rs Office had earlier convened a working group to consider how the NC3Rs can further support development and implementation of the 3Rs within universities
- Office researched self-assessment tools in related fields (e.g. medical research, academia, governance)
- Draft tool developed, utilising previous research and combined experience of the NC3Rs team, led by Regional Programme Manager (Midlands)
- Informal consultation on the draft tool with selected stakeholders
- Revision and simplification of the tool – e.g. from a four point grading scale to yes/no questions; focus on HEIs
- Question set agreed by a working group, with broad representation from UK organisations including named persons, facility managers, research funders, etc.

3Rs self-assessment tools – basics

- Framework which allows HEI and other research establishments to benchmark their 3Rs activities and progress – comprised of six main categories
- Second, shorter, framework for individual research groups
- Online tools with the functionality to map scores and provide guidance and examples on how to improve
- Use of the tools will be voluntary and confidential

1. Leadership: taking a strategic approach
2. People: ensuring the right culture
3. Research and infrastructure: supporting the best science
4. Experimental design: ensuring robust and reproducible experiments
5. Training: building capability
6. External dissemination: publications and the wider audience

1. Leadership: taking a strategic approach

2. People: ensuring the right culture

3. Research and infrastructure: supporting the best science

4. Experimental design and reporting: robust and reproducible studies

5. Training: building capability

6. Publications and wider dissemination: sharing impacts

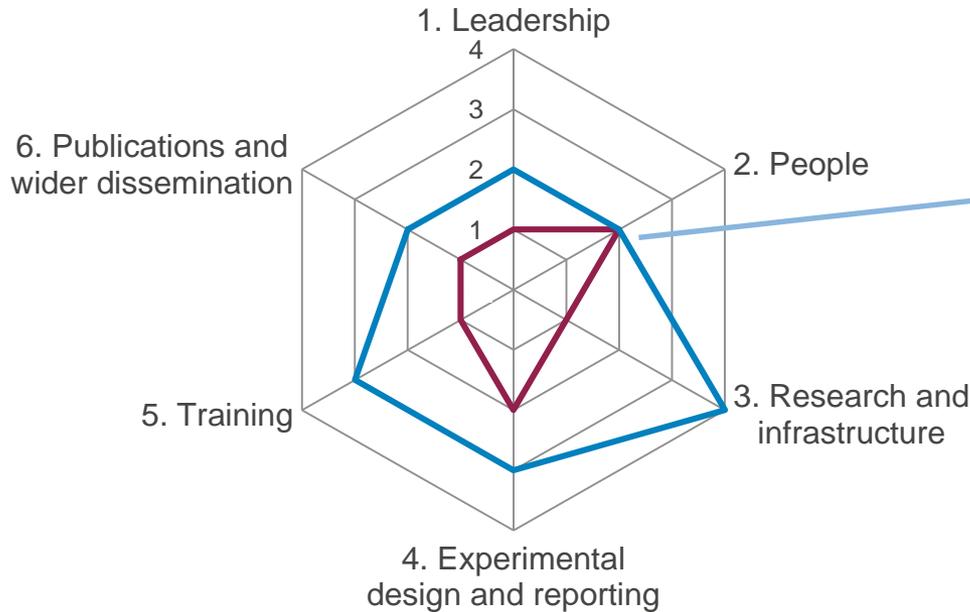
1. Leadership: taking a strategic approach

Research establishments should take a strategic approach to the 3Rs and make a formal commitment to their implementation, additional to project licence assessment.

Questions	Examples/guidance	Answer			Commentary
		Yes	Partial	No	
		Yes	Partial	No	Reasons, actions
1.1 Is the institution's commitment to the 3Rs visible and accessible to all staff?	This could be included within the policy on animal research.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
1.2 Has responsibility for driving and coordinating 3Rs activities across the institution been assigned to a senior member of staff ('the academic lead')?	This individual should be of a suitably senior status to influence decision making, e.g. Dean or Head of Department.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
1.3 Are contact details of the academic lead in the public domain?	Available to others in the institution and to inform the public about the role.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
1.4 Is responsibility for the 3Rs at the institutional level included in the academic 3Rs lead's job description and appraisal?		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	



3Rs self-assessment tool – scoring and guidance



— First scoring date
 — Second scoring date



People: Suggestions for improvement

Consider strengthening your institution's 3Rs culture by.... For guidance, see the following...

NC 3Rs National Centre for the Refinement, Refinement & Reduction of Animals in Research

Home > News & Blog > Recognising and rewarding 3Rs developments at AstraZeneca

Recognising and rewarding 3Rs developments at AstraZeneca

Tuesday 02 June 2015

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Home > News & Blog > Hosting an institutional workshop on the 3Rs

Hosting an institutional workshop on the 3Rs

Tuesday 01 July 2014

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NC 3Rs National Centre for the Refinement, Refinement & Reduction of Animals in Research

Home > News & Blog > Creating a culture of care

Creating a culture of care

Friday 22 August 2014

Keep in touch

Guidance for university web pages on the 3Rs in animal research

Thursday 18 May 2017

Our Regional Programme Managers, Kamar Ameen-Ali and Emma Stringer, have recently been working with universities on their web pages about animal research. In this blog, they share why these pages are important, and highlight new guidance from the NC3Rs.

Download a copy of our new website guidance

Universities across the UK conduct world-leading research, the outputs of which are published in journals, showcased on their websites and reported about in the news. Some of this research will involve the use of animals, and over the years it has become clear that due to the contentious nature of the issue, institutions have struggled in exactly how to communicate this to the public. The key? To be open about it.

The importance of providing information regarding the use of animals in research is reflected in opinion polls such as the Ipsos-MORI poll on public attitudes to animal research. The latest

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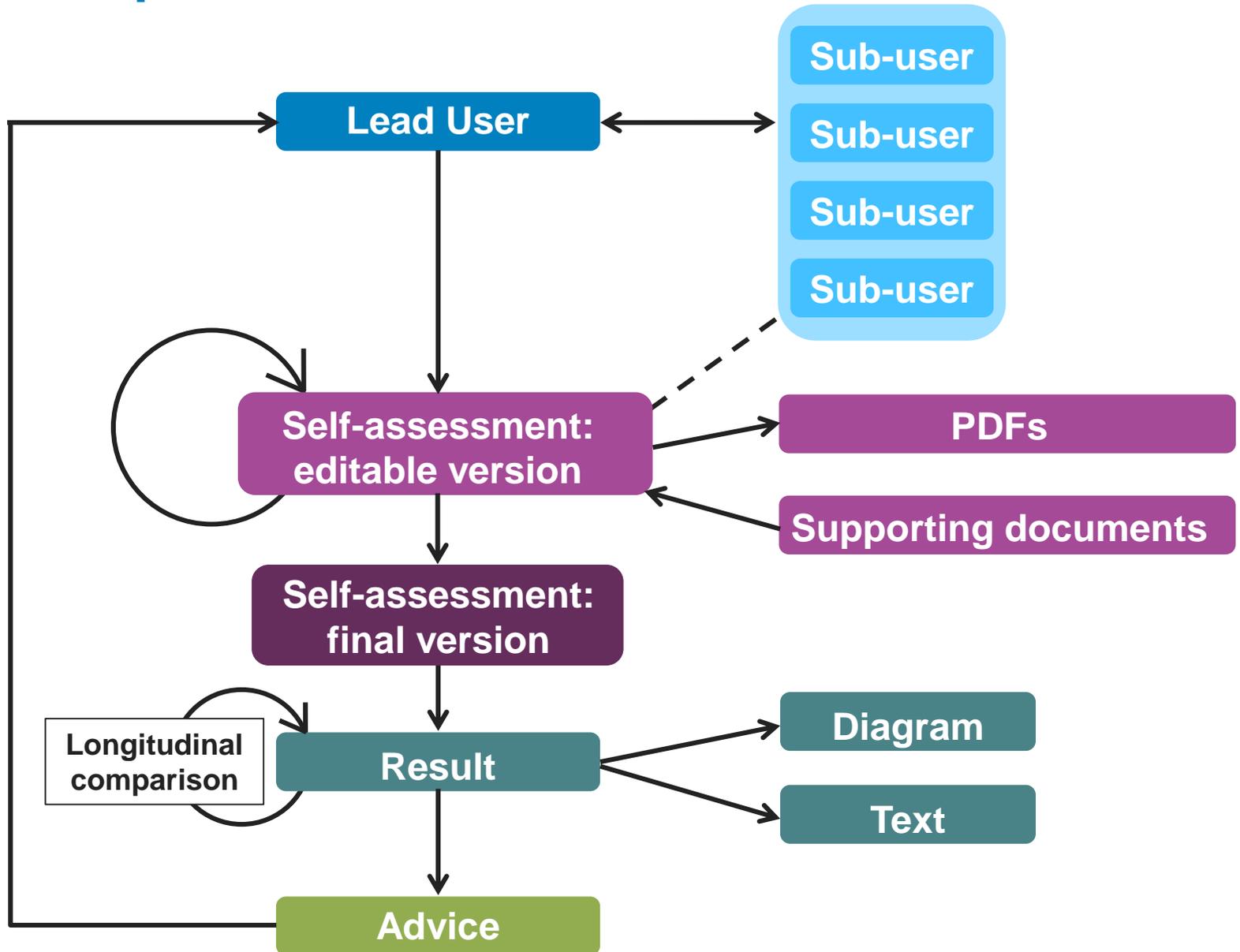
Twitter feed

3Rs self-assessment tool for research groups

Question	Answer			Guidance	Commentary
	Yes	Partial	No		
1. Has the group appointed a 3Rs champion to ensure that others in the team are kept abreast of the latest 3Rs advances?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Reasons, actions
2. Does the group routinely use the ARRIVE guidelines when planning experiments and reporting studies using animals?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	www.nc3rs.org.uk/ARRIVE	
3. Does the group routinely use the Experimental Design Assistant?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	http://eda.nc3rs.org.uk	
4. Are procedures regularly reviewed to ensure best practice is adopted and followed across the group?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Specialised procedures specific to the group as well as routine.	
5. Are the 3Rs regularly discussed in team meetings?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Standing item on the latest 3Rs advances.	
6. Has the group identified areas for 3Rs development in its programme of work?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Utilising existing techniques or developing new ones.	



Anticipated Workflow



Scoring Criteria

- Understanding of the project
- Project plans, including timeline
- Project team, including relevant experience
- Potential for working relationship with expert working group
- Track record of the company and experience in dealing with confidential data
- Knowledge and expertise with implementing security information management protocols
- Value for money



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Tender details:

www.contractsfinder.service.gov.uk/Search

Reference number: **UKSBSIT18138**