

SCOTTISH ACCREDITATION BOARD

**Newsletter
Winter 2025**



Photograph courtesy of Professor Stephen Phillips

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Welcome to the Winter edition of the SAB Newsletter.

There have been a few changes to the Board this year. After 21 years as Chair of the Board Stephen Phillips has retired from the post however, he has agreed to remain as Vice-Chair and to support Alison Michie who has now officially taken over as Chair of SAB.

SAB are always looking forward to recruiting new members and have begun to carry out succession planning which is vital in maintaining a viable and fresh Board where new ideas can be shared.

Latest updates

- **Funding** - please remember that funding is available from SAB to assist in attending relevant courses and educational needs. The application form can be found on the Scottish Accreditation Board website under '[Support Funding](#)', which includes further information and where to send your completed application form.
If awarded, a requirement of the funding is to update SAB on progress and submit a report at the end of the project/event with details of how the funding was of benefit.
- **Amendments to certificates** – to clarify that the deadline for any amendments is four months after issue. Within two weeks there will be no charge, up to four months the amendment charge will be £11 and after four months a new certificate would be required and charged for at a rate of £22. Any new certificates should only state the modules passed at that time. Amendments can only apply to modules with the same trainer, no certificates with multiple trainers. If it is a new trainer then a new certificate would be required whatever the timescales.

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TAWG Update

Karen Dunford has now officially taken over the role as Chair of TAWG and has arranged the next meeting for January 2026 in London. Continued work will be carried out on the species modules and the introduction of a difficulty index (IDI) which will check the quality of questions. Using the IDI will continually check the quality of the questions.

Latest Website Updates

- Policy Paper for Replacing Animals in Science published 11th November
Replacing animals in science
A strategy to support the development, validation, and uptake of alternative methods
Presented to Parliament by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for AI and Online Safety by Command of His Majesty
[Replacing animals in science: A strategy to support the development, validation, and uptake of alternative methods - GOV.UK](#)
- Animal Research Statistics 2024
The annual statistics on the number of animals used in scientific, medical, and veterinary research has been published by the Home Office.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/animals-in-science-statistics>
- Pain Management in Zebrafish
FELASA Working Group recommendations on pain management in zebrafish
[Pain management in zebrafish: Report from a FELASA Working Group](#). Sneddon LU, Schroeder P, Roque A, Finger-Baier K, Fleming A, Tinman S, Collet B. Lab Anim. 2023.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/00236772231198733>

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Finally on behalf of SAB I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a fulfilling and successful New Year.



Cathy Godfrey: SAB Company Secretary