



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework

Implementation Plan Mid Year Review

2016-17



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Ministerial Foreword

The “Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework – Achieving High Standards Together” sets out the approach we are taking to achieve continued and lasting improvements in standards of animal health and welfare whilst also helping protect public health and making a contribution to the economy and the environment. The Framework also supports the seven well-being goals set out in the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 for a prosperous, resilient, healthy, more equal Wales, with a thriving culture and cohesive communities, and a Wales which is globally responsible.

Last July, I published the Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework Implementation Plan 2016/17 which explains our priorities for the coming 12 months. This Mid Year Review provides an update on progress made through what has been a very busy time with many new challenges to consider.

The scope of the review is wide, covering the work of both Welsh Government and the Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework Group. Actions include the work to refresh and strengthen our bovine TB Eradication programme, reviewing the animal welfare codes of practice as well as our statutory commitments to protect human health and the human food chain. It also provides an update on our contingency planning arrangements in the event of an outbreak of exotic disease, plans which in this period have been actioned to deal with the challenge of H5N8 avian influenza.

I am grateful to the Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework Group for their continued commitment and support. They have continued their work on Biosecurity and Antimicrobial Resistance as well as supporting the development of an Eradication Scheme for Bovine Viral Diarrhoea in Wales.

The Group have also been heavily involved in the work to consider animal health and welfare in the context of EU Exit. I am grateful to the wide range of partners who have got involved in this work including industry representatives, livestock keepers and other animal owners.

We have made considerable progress across this very broad range of activity. Whilst there is a lot of work ahead, the Mid Year Review clearly demonstrates through applying the principles within the Future Generations Act, we can work together to ensure Wales achieves the highest standards of animal health and welfare. This work is crucial to support our position as we plan for 2017/18 and the longer term.

Lesley Griffiths

Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs



Section 1: Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework Group Priorities

Introduction by Peredur Hughes, Chair of the Wales Animal Health and Welfare Group

Well a lot has happened since the publication of this Implementation Plan back in July. The Wales AHWF Group has been working hard to progress our priorities whilst at the same time supporting the work of Welsh Government to consider the implications of the EU Referendum result. Our involvement began last year with cross sector industry workshops and a series of Roundtable meetings called by the Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs. In January, we held two workshops with partners and stakeholders to consider animal health and welfare planning for the short, medium and longer term in the context of EU Exit. I was pleased to see so many people attending and we had some very constructive discussions. We know, we must, as a minimum, work to maintain current standards of animal health and welfare. I feel the commitment is there to continuously improve these standards to help support negotiations and future trade deals.

We all recognise the importance of working together through this period of significant change. As a Group, we hope to hold more workshops in the future and would encourage people to register their interests with the Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework. To strengthen a joined up approach, we continue to work closely with both the Food Industry Group and the Amaeth Cymru Partnership Group. I am also now a member of the Strategy Sub-Group of the Amaeth Cymru Partnership Group. Members of the Wales AHWF Group have continued to attend the GB wide Cattle and Sheep

Health and Welfare Groups. This has been of particular importance given the work that we are doing on BVD and Antimicrobial Resistance.

As well as the work to consider EU Exit, we have been working to progress our other priorities. In September, the application to the Welsh Government Rural Communities – Rural Development Programme 2014-2020, for Phase 1 of the BVD Eradication Scheme was approved. The application for Phase 2 of the Scheme was submitted in February. A huge amount of work has gone into these proposals and I am looking forward to seeing the Wales BVD Eradication Scheme launched in 2017. In the Autumn, we received the draft results of the sheep scab survey. Thank you to everyone who responded. The results have allowed us to take a fresh view of the situation in Wales. We plan to put our recommendations to the Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs and publish the results shortly. On sheep lameness, we have secured the support of Farming Connect to implement the “Life without lameness – 5 point plan”, developed by vets and practical farm experiences. The approach is already showing some positive results.

Raising awareness of biosecurity continues. On the latter, the Group is represented at the CHAWG Cattle Antimicrobial Usage Data Collection Sub-Group. This is a complex subject but fundamental to any approach going forward.

In December, the Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs joined our meeting to discuss responsible animal ownership, and our emerging work to engage with the poultry sector. We have been encouraged by the work undertaken to review the Animal Welfare Codes of Practice and are keen to support the work to develop a plan to promote responsible animal ownership across Wales.

This has been an exceptionally difficult time for the poultry sector in light of the outbreak of avian influenza. Following our discussion with the Cabinet Secretary, we will be looking at how best we can work with Welsh Government to encourage sign up to the Great Britain poultry register to help ensure the industry is in the best position possible to control any disease outbreaks in Wales.

In the next few months the membership of the Wales Animal Health and Welfare Group will be changing. Huw Davies will be stepping down and I would like to thank Huw for his hard work and commitment since the Group was set up back in 2014. I am looking forward to welcoming 2 new members who will be publically appointed by the Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs in the Spring.

Best wishes

Peredur Hughes

Chair of the Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework Group

Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)

Key Actions	Progress Update
Increase awareness and education of AMR.	<p>The Wales AHWF Group has continued to support the UK Five Year Antimicrobial Resistance Strategy through education and awareness raising.</p> <p>The Group has forged closer links with the Great Britain Cattle Health and Welfare Group (CHAWG) and contributed to the work of the CHAWG Cattle Antimicrobial Usage Data Collection Steering Group. The CHAWG Sub-Group is investigating ways in which antibiotic use in cattle can be measured, and the data collated to provide evidence for reducing use in the future. Other activity includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with Public Health Wales to learn about ways in which guidance on antibiotic selection and use is made available to clinicians • Discussions with the Veterinary Delivery Partners in Wales, Menter a Busnes and Iechyd Da to exploit potential for enhancing antibiotic stewardship standards, through producing, prescribing and dispensing guidance for vets • Commissioning Farming Connect to raise awareness of the appropriate usage of antimicrobials in farm animals. <p>The Group will continue to promote the message that high-health production systems and good preventive veterinary medicine will lead to the reduce usage of antimicrobials (prevention is better than cure).</p>
Increase the promotion of good husbandry and biosecurity practices to control zoonoses, endemic and exotic animal diseases – prevention is better than cure – a prime mechanism for this will be the Farming Connect Service.	<p>Promotion of good husbandry and biosecurity practices is an agreed priority for the Farming Connect Service. The Wales AHWF Group will continue to work with Welsh Government to develop the animal health and welfare element of the service to ensure they are embedded as a cross cutting theme.</p> <p>The Wales AHWF Group recognises a key aspect of the work on AMR is to reduce the need to have to use medicines in the first place – prevention is better than cure. The work on biosecurity (updated later in the table) will contribute to this objective. AMR is also an agreed animal health and welfare priority within the Farming Connect Service.</p>
Promoting the responsible use of antibiotics.	
Support work at the UK level to develop improved data collection and evidence gathering relating to AMR to ensure a robust evidence base is in place to inform future actions.	<p>The Wales AHWF Group is supporting the CHAWG to address the AMR data challenge. The CHAWG Cattle Antimicrobial Usage Data Collection Steering Group visited Aberystwyth in October 2016 for a demonstration of software produced by Welsh Lamb and Beef Producers (WLBP) which allows automatic recording of cattle movement records (linked to BCMS) and medicines recording. It was also agreed at the Sheep Health and Welfare Group (SHAWG) meeting in October for a similar approach to be taken for the sheep sector. The Wales AHWF Group will support the work of SHAWG on this issue.</p>

Biosecurity

Key Actions	Progress Update
<p>Consider the recommendations in the Biosecurity Survey Results Report, advise on the way forward and oversee the implementation of these recommendations.</p>	<p>The results from the Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework Biosecurity Survey were published in February 2016. www.gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/ahw/biosecurity/wahwf-biosecurity-survey/?lang=en</p> <p>Significant progress has been made in taking forward the recommendations from the survey. In the next period, further consideration will be given to some of the more complex recommendations in particular around mechanisms to improve evidence gathering and measures for success. An example being the development of a mobile application on biosecurity for farmers to use. The Chief Veterinary Officer for Wales is also looking to focus on equine biosecurity in the coming months.</p> <p>Regular communications on biosecurity advice and information will continue. The Wales AHWF Group will also be considering the timing of a follow up biosecurity survey.</p>
<p>Continue promoting the cattle keepers' handbook.</p>	<p>The Cattle Keepers Handbook continues to be available on-line at: www.gov.wales/docs/drah/publications/150515-cattle-keepers-guide-en.pdf</p>
<p>Produce a sheep keepers' handbook to promote key messages and good practice.</p>	<p>This work will be progressed over the next 6 months.</p>
<p>Consider equine biosecurity as part of the overarching campaign on biosecurity, working with partners to establish and promote key messages.</p>	<p>The Chief Veterinary Officer for Wales attended the World Horse Welfare Conference in November 2016 and met with the Chief Executive Officer of World Horse Welfare in January to discuss equine biosecurity. A number of actions are now under consideration including improving equine biosecurity at agricultural shows and development of an equine health checklist.</p>
<p>Promote farm health planning, in particular through the Farming Connect Service.</p>	<p>Farm health planning is a key animal health and welfare priority within the Farming Connect Service.</p>
<p>Ensure that good biosecurity is a core element of the overarching strategies such as the proposed Strategic Framework for Agriculture and the Farming Connect Service.</p>	<p>The Chair of the Wales AHWF Group is now a member of the Farming Connect Strategic Advisory Board. The Wales AHWF Group has been working closely with officials within the Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer and Farming Connect to ensure biosecurity is at the core of animal health and welfare policy. The Group held an ad hoc meeting on 31 January to discuss animal health planning proposals with a view to setting up a sub-group to focus on this work in the coming months. This will be a key priority for the Wales AHWF Group.</p>
<p>Ensure that biosecurity is central to any proposals developed by the Group during 2016/17.</p>	<p>In this period, the Wales AHWF Group has overseen the development of a full application for Welsh Government Rural Communities – Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 for Wales funding for Phase 2 of the BVD Eradication Scheme in Wales. Improving biosecurity on farms is a key goal of the proposed eradication scheme.</p>

Bovine Viral Diarrhoea

Key Actions	Progress Update
Continue to oversee the development of the proposed BVD Eradication Scheme.	<p>An application to the Welsh Government Rural Communities – Rural Development Programme 2014-2020, co-operation and Supply Chain Development Scheme for Phase 1 of the BVD Eradication Scheme was approved in September 2016. This has enabled the BVD Sub-Group to progress development of the scheme including communications, practical testing of proposals and working on scheme set up.</p> <p>An application for Phase 2 of the BVD Eradication Scheme was submitted in February 2016. This application covers the bulk of the funding required to take the Scheme forward covering young stock screening, PI hunts, setting up of a database, communications and core programme delivery. Subject to approval, the proposed timetable for the launch of the Wales BVD Eradication will be Summer 2017 or earlier if possible.</p>
Raise awareness to encourage uptake of the scheme prior and post launch.	This will be on-going in the run up to the launch of the Wales BVD Eradication Scheme.
Ensure that high standards of biosecurity underpin the development and implementation of the scheme.	Biosecurity is included as a core element of the Wales BVD Eradication Scheme.
Work across borders e.g. through the GB wide Cattle Health and Welfare Group to keep abreast of the position in England and Scotland.	The Wales AHWF Group is represented at meetings of the Cattle Health and Welfare Group where BVD is a regular agenda item. The BVD Sub-Group has also been in close contact with colleagues in England, Scotland and Northern Ireland throughout the development of the BVD Eradication Scheme.

Engagement with the Poultry Sector in Wales

Key Actions	Progress Update
<p>Undertake a publicity campaign to encourage poultry keepers to register their poultry on the GB Poultry Register.</p>	<p>The Wales AHWF Group discussed proposals for the publicity campaign at their meeting on 15 December. Over the coming months the Group will be working with officials within the Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer and the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • consider writing and targeting the supplying companies to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – inform/remind their customers that there is a legal requirement to keep records of poultry that they sell and to whom i.e. name, address, date and quantity – communicate that all poultry keepers, including those with fewer than 50 birds, are encouraged to provide details of their flocks to the Poultry Register. • consider visits to poultry suppliers businesses (chickens, ducks etc.) in Wales which are not included in the normal APHA Egg Marketing Inspectors inspection routine • advertise in specialist poultry magazines and on poultry society websites • smallholding events • Gwlad articles. <p>Within this period there has been the H5N8 avian influenza outbreak in Great Britain. The majority of communications including the oral statement made by the Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs on 10 January have included reference to the poultry register, reminding poultry keepers to ensure they are registered, including those owners with fewer than 50 birds.</p>
<p>Consider and develop a programme of poultry keeper education through local educational meetings and literature.</p>	<p>Work on this action will be taken forward over the coming months. It is hoped work on the animal welfare Codes of Practice, in particular the revised code for laying hens and the proposed new broiler code can help inform this work.</p>
<p>Encourage poultry keepers to register with a veterinary practice.</p>	<p>This will be included in the overarching campaign as it is developed.</p>
<p>Work with Local Authorities to encourage small holders to register.</p>	<p>This will be included in the overarching campaign as it is developed.</p>
<p>Consider opportunities to link up with the actions for biosecurity and antimicrobial resistance.</p>	<p>Issues concerning poultry will be included in the work outlined earlier on biosecurity and antimicrobial resistance.</p>

Engagement with the Welfare Sector – Equine and Companion Animals

Key Actions	Progress Update
Work with Welsh Government and stakeholders to review and update the Animal Welfare Codes of Practice.	A programme of work is now underway to revise welfare Codes of Practice. Codes are aimed at the general public and keepers of kept (companion or farmed) animals. Under the Animal Welfare Act, codes have been published for equines, dogs, cats, rabbits, cattle, sheep and gamebirds.
Consider equine biosecurity as part of the overarching campaign on biosecurity, working with partners to establish and promote key messages.	See update under Biosecurity.
Working with AWWN to develop Standard Operating Procedures for Police (and other emergency services) for equine emergencies.	There is no progress to report on this action at this review point.
Supporting and facilitating discussions with partners in Local Government, Health and Social Services and Education.	The Wales AHWF Group continues to support discussions as required.
Continue to work with Welsh Government and the AWWN on options for improving sanctuaries.	The AWWN have been tasked with producing a draft animal welfare Code of Practice on animal sanctuaries. This work is on-going and forms part of the wider work to consider all of the animal welfare codes currently under review.

Increased Collaboration and Partnership Working

Key Actions	Progress Update
Encourage partners to register their interests and join partnership networks.	This work remains on-going. Over 450 contacts are now registered.
Encourage stakeholders/partner organisations to work together to achieve common goals, an existing example is the BVD Sub-Group.	The Wales AHWF Group has been keen to engage with stakeholders/partner organisations, especially in the context of the EU Referendum Result. In January, the Group held two "Planning for the Future" workshops to consider planning for the 2017/18 year and longer term. Over 70 delegates attended in total. Over the coming months, the evidence gathered at the workshops will be considered and factored into future planning. The Wales AHWF Group has already decided to hold similar events in the 2017/18 year.
Scope out the potential for a web based information hub covering animal health and welfare issues.	This idea was tested at the Wales AHWF Group workshops. Work to develop this idea will be taken forward over the coming months.
Offer facilitation support on using the outcomes based approach.	Wales AHWF Group members have continued to provide their support, in particular to the BVD Sub-Group and the work on sheep scab. As stated earlier, the Wales AHWF Group has also agreed to facilitate the set up of a Sub-Group to consider animal health planning.
Work closely with the Food Industry Board and the Strategic Partnership Board for Agriculture to consider longer term challenges for animal health and welfare in Wales and the industry as a whole.	<p>There are now established links in place with Amaeth Cymru Partnership Group and the Food and Drink Industry Board. The Chair of the Wales AHWF Group is also a member of the Strategy Sub-Group of the Amaeth Cymru Partnership Group.</p> <p>The Wales AHWF Group have also been contributing to the workshops and Roundtable discussions on EU Exit, actively seeking the views of animal health and welfare partners through their own workshops to feed into the preparations for future negotiations.</p>

Sheep Scab

Key Actions	Progress Update
Consider the results of the survey looking at the prevalence of sheep scab in Wales, in particular to identify any geographical areas that require additional support.	The Wales AHWF Group has considered the results of the sheep scab survey and is in the process of preparing advice for the Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs. The Group have also requested additional work be carried out on spatial analysis to help inform their recommendations. The results of the sheep scab survey along with the Group's recommendations will be published in March.
Work with the Sheep Scab Task and Finish Group to re-evaluate the recommendations in the report The Challenge of Eradicating Sheep Scab.	<p>The Wales AHWF Group have met with NFU Cymru, FUW and the National Sheep Association who are members of the Sheep Scab Task and Finish Group to discuss the results of the sheep scab survey and re-evaluate the recommendations in the report The Challenge of Eradicating Sheep Scab.</p> <p>It was agreed a key issue of concern was the apparent misuse of products for treating sheep scab and to address this there needed to be more focus on knowledge transfer. Consideration is now being given to develop a proposal to apply for funding from the Welsh Government Rural Communities – Rural Development Programme 2014-2020.</p>
Work with Welsh Government to develop a programme on parasite control as part of the Farming Connect Service.	Parasite control is one of the key animal health and welfare priorities included within the Farming Connect Service. Work is progressing to develop a programme on parasite control. Once agreed, consideration will be given as to how the recommendations from the sheep scab survey can be incorporated into this work. At their meeting in December, the Group also considered a presentation from Sustainable Control of Parasites in Sheep (SCOPS) on anthelmintic resistance. The Group recognise the importance of including this in any programme on parasite control moving forwards.
Ensure that high standards of biosecurity underpin any actions taken forward from The Challenge of Eradicating Sheep Scab report.	This will be dependent on the actions advised by the Wales AHWF Group.
Continue working across borders e.g. through the GB wide Sheep Health and Welfare Group to keep abreast of the position in England and Scotland.	The Wales AHWF Group is represented at meetings of the Sheep Health and Welfare Group where sheep scab is a regular agenda item.

Sheep Lameness

Key Actions	Progress Update
<p>Establish a national Welsh working group on sheep lameness involving key stakeholders from Wales' industry, veterinary, farmer and academic communities.</p>	<p>The Wales AHWF Group has secured the support of Farming Connect to implement the "Life without lameness – 5 point plan" which has been developed by vets and practical farm experiences. It tackles lameness in a variety of ways: prompt treatment, isolation of affected animals, culling, good biosecurity and vaccination. Implementation of the Plan began in August 2016.</p>
<p>Work with the established working group to:</p> <p>Consider and agree actions to achieve sustained low levels of lameness. This will include for example, consideration of the "5 Point Plan."</p> <p>Identify sources of and then secure appropriate funding.</p> <p>Work in partnership with the Farming Connect Service to raise awareness, share advice and best practice with farmers.</p> <p>Consider how to best involve veterinary surgeons in the work being taken forward.</p>	<p>Farming Connect are now rolling out this programme of work. The Wales AHWF Group will continue to monitor progress and in this context will assess whether there is a need to set up a separate working group on this topic.</p>

Topics covered by the Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework Group

The Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework Group have held 3 meetings in this period under review. The following topics have been covered:

- Animal Health – Delivery Options for Services in Wales
- Animal Health Planning
- Animal Health Surveillance Governance Board
- Anthelmintic Resistance
- Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)
- Biosecurity
- Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD)
- Cattle and Sheep Health and Welfare Groups
- Climate Change
- Contingency Planning
- Electronic Shock Collars – Review
- Equines and application of FEI standards
- EU Animal Health Regulation
- EU Exit and Implications for animal health and welfare
- Illegal Importation of Puppies
- International Disease Monitoring Reports (IDM)
- Mobile Animal Exhibits
- Natural Resources policy consultation
- Pig and poultry sector – key welfare issues
- Quarantine units
- Retailers accepting milk/products from vaccinated animals
- Royal Welsh Show
- Sheep Scab and Sheep Lameness
- Strategic Framework for Agriculture in Wales
- Surveillance Governance Board
- TB Dashboard and Cymorth TB
- Welfare Sector Priorities
- World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) Audit



Section 2: Welsh Government Priorities

Introduction by Professor Christianne Glossop, Chief Veterinary Officer for Wales

It has been a very busy and challenging period since the Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework Implementation Plan 2016/17 was published at the end of July. As well as working to deliver against the actions set out in the Plan, my team and I are involved in the work to consider the implications of the EU Referendum result and support the Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs to prepare for the negotiations ahead. As Chief Veterinary Officer for Wales, I am in regular discussions with my counterparts in England, Scotland and Northern Ireland on EU Exit and what this will mean for animal health and welfare. We must continue to press ahead with the principles of embedding high standards of animal health and welfare. We are analysing the text of EU animal Health Law (<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:L:2016:084:FULL&from=EN>) to make sure we can retain the key principles of this important and useful regulation. This is in the interests of promoting healthy Welsh livestock, protecting human health, the environment and safeguarding the local economy; also to support our international trading position.

At the core of this work is biosecurity with every farm applying strict protocols developed in conjunction with private vets. My team has been working to take forward the recommendations from the Biosecurity Survey, in particular through Farming Connect and the advice/guidance we publish. I have also been taking a closer look at equine biosecurity having attended the World Horse Welfare

Conference in November and speaking with the Chief Executive Officer of World Horse Welfare in January. I will be considering what we can do to encourage improvements in this area.

We have been working in partnership with the Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework Group on a number of issues and progress is being made. On Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD), a considerable amount of work has gone in to secure funding for a Wales BVD Eradication Scheme and I hope to see the scheme up and running within the next few months. This is an excellent example of industry working together and a model to build on for other non-statutory animal diseases. Raising awareness of Antimicrobial Resistance and responsible use of medicines can help deliver the objective of a Globally Responsible Wales. It is clear that health planning is key to reducing the use of these precious products. In the last few months, my team has been working closely with colleagues in Public Health to identify areas where we can join up and support each other.

The early and accurate detection of disease is essential for animal and public health and requires an effective surveillance system. In recent years the surveillance system has undergone some major changes and Welsh Government has been successful in stipulating some additional safeguards to ensure good surveillance across Wales. In this period, we have been working closely with partners across the United Kingdom dealing with the outbreak of avian influenza.

These cases demonstrate the importance of our contingency planning work. Individual animal owners also have a responsibility and in this instance I would continue to encourage all poultry keepers, including those with fewer than 50 birds to provide details of their flocks to the Poultry Register www.gov.uk/guidance/Poultry-registration. This will ensure they can be contacted immediately in an avian disease outbreak so action can be taken to protect the national flock.

The Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs made a statement on 18 October launching a consultation on a refreshed Bovine TB Eradication Programme which included a number of new initiatives. The consultation closed on 10 January 2017 and a substantial number of responses were received. My team are currently collating and analysing the responses to present to the Cabinet Secretary. It is anticipated the refreshed programme will be published in Spring 2017.

Engagement and partnership working is a key principle underpinning our work. I am really keen to engage more with younger people and seek their views on our policies and programmes moving forwards. An area where this is of real importance is our work to revise the Companion Animal Welfare Codes of Practice. We are looking to develop a real understanding at responsible animal ownership and there is no better place to start than with younger people.

I hope you will be encouraged by the progress we are making and will continue to work with us through the remainder of this year and as we begin our planning for 2017/18.

Christianne Glossop

Chief Veterinary Officer for Wales

Animal Welfare Codes of Practice

Key Actions	Progress Update
Work with the Animal Welfare Network Wales and the Wales AHWF Group to complete the initial review of the Companion Animal Welfare Codes of Practice.	<p>The Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework Group have endorsed the partnership approach to be undertaken by the Animal Welfare Network Wales (AWNW) for a review of the equine, dog and cat animal Codes of Practice. The species specific groups were established and tasked with providing recommended revisions to the Welsh Government during the drafting process. The groups provided their recommendation to Welsh Government in September.</p> <p>Internal consideration of these revisions is on-going prior to public consultation later in 2017.</p>
Establish small informal working groups to provide technical advice to complete the initial review of the Pig and Laying Hens Welfare Codes of Practice.	Working Groups for the review of the Pig and Laying Hens Welfare Codes of Practice have been established and provided their recommendations to Welsh Government in December. Internal consideration of these recommendations is now underway.
Undertake a full public consultation on the proposed amendments to the Animal Welfare Codes of Practice.	The public consultation will take place later in 2017.
Consider what additional species Welfare Codes of Practice are required.	It will be the intention to ask this question as part of the public consultation.

Bees

Key Actions	Progress Update
<p>Work with delivery partners to support seasonal and full time Bee Inspectors to control bee disease in Wales.</p>	<p>The Welsh Regional Bee Inspectorate publishes their review of Bee Health in Wales on an annual basis. The review includes a range of statistics including the number of bee keepers and the main disease risks. All Welsh Regional Bee Inspector reviews can be found on Beebase – link: www.nationalbeeunit.com/index.cfm.</p> <p>The Welsh Government and Welsh Beekeepers worked closely with Defra colleagues during the incursion of the Asian Hornet sighting in England last autumn. The contingency and communication plans are being updated to reflect lessons learnt.</p>
<p>Work in partnership with Defra, other devolved administrations and beekeeping associations to consider the future of the Apiculture Programme.</p>	<p>The Welsh Government continues to work with Defra and other devolved administrations on the current EU Apiculture Programme (2017-2019) which has now been agreed by the EU Commission.</p> <p>The Welsh Government will continue to work with Defra, other devolved administrations and the Bee Health Advisory Forum to consider the future of the Apiculture Programme post 2019.</p>
<p>Contribute to the management and cost of the National Bee Unit.</p>	<p>The Welsh Government has continued to fund the Bee Inspectorate in Wales. The Bee Inspectorate delivers the Bee Health Programme in Wales through free inspections, one to one advice and education through husbandry workshops. The Inspectorate feeds information in to Beebase (database) which plays an essential part in mapping incidents of disease, collating information on beekeeping in Wales and acts as an effective vehicle with which to communicate with Beekeepers/Bee Farmers on current issues. www.nationalbeeunit.com/index.cfm.</p>

Bovine TB

Key Actions	Progress Update
<p>Effective implementation of the Welsh elements of the UK TB Eradication Plan.</p>	<p>The Welsh TB Eradication Programme, outlined in the approved 2016 UK TB Eradication Plan, has been implemented as agreed. On top of existing controls, enhanced measures in the Plan included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • applying Officially Free TB Withdrawn status to all breakdowns as the default • publication of information on cattle herds affected by bovine TB (www.ibTB.co.uk) • amending the TB (Wales) Order 2010 to further align compensation levels with best practice. <p>The Plan also included proposals to review the Programme with a view to working towards a refreshed Programme, a key element of which would be a new regionalised approach to TB eradication.</p> <p>The 2017 UK TB Eradication Plan has also now been approved by the Commission.</p>
<p>Review the bovine TB strategy and take forward a refreshed programme following Ministerial agreement.</p>	<p>The strategic framework for TB eradication published in 2012 comes to an end this year. The Cabinet Secretary made a statement on 18 October announcing a refresh of the strategy and launched a 12 week consultation with stakeholders on a number of new initiatives to strengthen the Programme. The consultation closed on 10 January 2017 and, following consideration of the responses, it is anticipated the refreshed Programme will be published in spring 2017.</p>
<p>Review the badger vaccination policy in light of the supply and availability of the badger BCG vaccine.</p>	<p>The Year 4 IAA Badger Vaccination Report has been published. It is unlikely that Badger BCG will be available until 2018. Officials are continuing to explore the possibility of obtaining human vaccine to fill the gap for 2017. A decision to return in year 6 to complete the programme will be taken in the event of firm confirmation on the availability of vaccine.</p>
<p>Introduce a regional approach to TB eradication in Wales, including an initial low TB area and associated controls.</p>	<p>The Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs outlined a new regionalised response to eliminate TB in Wales as part of the refreshed TB Eradication Programme. Under the refreshed programme Low, Intermediate and High TB Areas will be established across Wales based on TB incidence levels. Each area will have a tailored approach to reflect the varying disease conditions and risks.</p>

Key Actions	Progress Update
<p>Target the persistent TB herd breakdowns, implementing intensive measures to eradicate the disease in these herds.</p>	<p>The chronic herd breakdowns are categorised as either “Persistent breakdown herds” which have been under restrictions for a great length of time, or “Recurring breakdown herds” which breakdown again shortly after coming off restrictions. These herds are subject to an enhanced case management process which may involve structured disease investigations, internal and external case meetings, biosecurity visits and advice, the production of an action plan for the cattle keeper, case review meetings, additional testing requirements, liaison with appropriate enforcement partners and other specific actions. The livestock keeper’s Official Veterinarian is consulted for local knowledge and herd health issues that may be of significance and is invited to attend an on-farm case conference.</p>
<p>Publish the annual surveillance report and updates to the quarterly TB Dashboard.</p>	<p>The Annual TB Surveillance Report for 2015 was published in July of 2016. www.gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/ahw/disease/bovinetuberculosis/bovinetberadication/?lang=en</p> <p>The IAA cattle comparison report covering the first five years, 1 May 2010 to 30 April 2015 has been published. www.gov.wales/docs/drah/publications/160404-iaa-cattle-comparison-report.pdf</p> <p>The Wales TB Dashboard is updated on a quarterly basis. www.gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/ahw/disease/bovinetuberculosis/bovinetberadication/tb-dashboard/?lang=en</p>
<p>Take forward further enhancements to the Cymorth TB Veterinary Programme.</p>	<p>Welsh Government is continuing to work with the Delivery Partners to ensure vets working in Wales undertake the training and become accredited to the Cymorth TB training programme. Broadening the scope of Cymorth TB to provide support (veterinary or otherwise) to a range of cattle farmers regardless of TB status is also being considered. To date approximately 131 vets have completed the training module, and approximately 260 Cymorth TB visits have been undertaken, while other farmers have expressed an interest in receiving such a visit.</p> <p>The Farming Community Network has successfully tendered for the contract to provide bespoke well-being support, advice and mentoring to farmers suffering a TB breakdown. Further work is currently being completed in liaison with Farming Connect colleagues to provide bespoke business advice and mentoring for farmers suffering a TB breakdown.</p>

Key Actions	Progress Update
<p>Supporting the epidemiology work currently being undertaken by Animal and Plant Health Agency which will inform the policy on disease control going forward.</p>	<p>The Welsh Government continues to support the epidemiology work being undertaken by the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA). Two additional cluster areas (Mid Wales and Dyfed) have been added to this project. A baseline report for these additional areas was completed in November.</p> <p>Other work being undertaken as part of the project includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • publication of the Wales TB Dashboard on a quarterly basis; • work to establish a Wales Low Risk Area; • an analysis of Wales Cattle Movements has been compiled by APHA which includes data on movement of cattle into Wales and multiple transactions. This data supports a project which studies herds who have been TB free for a considerable time. The aim is to try and identify what these holdings are doing differently to keep them TB free; • on-farm badger surveillance – there are three completed reports for the 2014 tranche, with a further six being undertaken for 2015 – the objective is to demonstrate to the holdings in question the activity on farm (or not) which concentrates the effort of intervention needed; • slurry questionnaire – evaluation of returns as part of EMC cluster update; 2 new additions: BVD & Fluke status; • whole genome sequencing (WGS); • cattle movements – High level analysis off the 2013-2014 dataset; and • EMPB skin test review and IR study – Preliminary results presented to WG.

Contingency Planning

Key Actions	Progress Update
Undertake the annual review of the Welsh Government Contingency Plan for Exotic Animal Diseases, taking account of the Defra Contingency Plan, lessons learnt from Local and National exercises and actual disease outbreaks by March 2017.	The Welsh Government Contingency Plan for Exotic Animal Diseases was re-published in July 2016. www.gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/ahw/uk-contingency-planning/?lang=en
Assist in the development of and participation in Animal and Plant Health Agency disease control exercises at both GB/UK and local levels.	In November 2016 Exercise Athena tested the UK's response to a request from the Australian government to formally enact the International Animal Health Emergency Reserve (IAHER). In December, the Welsh Government participated in the UK Exercise Willow to test response to foot and mouth disease.
Participate in wider resilience based activity e.g. attendance at Wales Resilience. Steering Group and non-animal health exercises. Also attendance at Wales Resilience Forum and Civil Contingencies Group.	Representatives from the Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer for Wales (OCVO) attend all resilience meetings and wherever possible participate in non-animal health exercises to ensure views are represented and to maintain the relationships essential to support the management of an exotic animal disease outbreak. OCVO Veterinary Advisers participate as members of the UK Veterinary Risk Group, whose outputs provide early warning of veterinary risks to raise awareness and inform policy development.
Review disease response capability assessments in liaison with other Devolved Administrations.	The Review for 2016/17 is on-going and due to be completed in February 2017. The Review will be shared with other Administrations to inform the UK Disease Response Capability.

Mobile Animal Exhibits

Key Actions	Progress Update
Consider the independent review, seek advice from the Wales AHWF Group and other experts group to provide advice to the Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs on options for the way forward.	The review of the science on 'The Welfare of Wild Animals in Travelling Circuses' was published in July 2016. The Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs published a Written Statement on 15 December 2016 outlining next steps. www.gov.wales/about/cabinet/cabinetstatements/2016-new/mobileanimalexhibits/?lang=en
Work in partnership with the WLGA, APHA and Local Authorities to develop and role out a checklist document to provide consistent advice to enforcers.	This will be taken forward in line with the actions set out in the Written Statement.

Quarantine Units Project

Key Actions	Progress Update
Subject to Ministerial approval, work with stakeholders and delivery partners to implement QUs in Wales, by end of December 2016.	All aspects of the project are progressing well with the introduction of Quarantine Units (QUs) expected in late Spring 2017. IBM is making changes to the Animal Movement Licensing System (AMLS2) to accommodate QUs. Guidance for livestock keepers, certification bodies and delivery partners has been developed and a pilot project involving two certification bodies and UKAS is on-going. The Disease Control (Amendment) Order 2017 has been drafted. The Order will allow for QUs to replace the existing complex exemptions to the 6DSS for cattle, sheep and goats, and will come into force with the introduction of QUs.
Amend the Disease Control (Wales) Order 2003 and General Movement Licences to reflect the new arrangements.	Work is progressing to amend the Disease Control (Amendment) (Wales) Order 2017. The General Movement Licences have been amended and are undergoing legal checking.
Communicate the new arrangements to the industry.	<p>A Communications Plan & Engagement Strategy has been agreed. An article was produced for the Gwlad Winter Fair and there is a dedicated Quarantine Unit page on the Welsh Government web pages.</p> <p>www.gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/ahw/farmanimaltracing/quarantine-units/?lang=en</p> <p>In spring 2017 the main communications work will issue inviting farmers to submit applications for authorisation of their QUs in anticipation of the system going live in late spring.</p>

Responsible Ownership

Key Actions	Progress Update
<p>Consider the recommendations from the RSPCA Review on Responsible Dog Ownership in Wales.</p>	<p>The findings and recommendations of the review on responsible dog ownership have been considered. Views have also been sought from the Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework Group.</p> <p>The Review was also discussed with the Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs at the Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework Group meeting in December. Options on the way forward are now being considered and will be presented to the Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs in due course.</p>
<p>Engage with departments across Welsh Government and external partners to develop a plan to promote the responsible ownership of companion animals, livestock and other animals in captivity across Wales.</p>	<p>Development of the plan to promote responsible ownership will be included as part of the options referred to above. The Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs has also agreed to write to the Cabinet Secretary for Education inviting a discussion on responsible ownership and the potential for this concept to be embedded in everyday school life.</p>

Salmonella

Key Actions	Progress Update
<p>Effective and timely response to any notifiable disease occurrence or alleged breach of the testing regimes set out in the National Control Plans.</p>	<p>There have been no amendments to EU rules during this reporting period.</p> <p>There are four National Control Programmes (NCPs) in place for broilers, breeders, layers (chickens) and turkeys. These NCP's set out the process for undertaking statutory surveillance of salmonellae considered to be of public health significance under EU Regulations.</p> <p>Published in September the Salmonella in livestock production in Great Britain, provides data on reports of Salmonella in livestock, birds and wildlife in Great Britain during 2015. www.gov.uk/government/publications/salmonella-in-livestock-production-in-great-britain-2015</p> <p>Chapters six and seven of the report shows that for each of the NCPs the definitive targets for estimated prevalence of regulated serovars has been achieved and that we continue to exceed the EU reduction targets for both chickens and turkeys. This demonstrates a concerted effort by Government and industry to control salmonella at the farm level.</p> <p>All Salmonella NCP sampling that the Animal and Plant Health Agency are responsible for was completed in 2015 to target and they remain on target to complete their 2016 profile.</p>
<p>Work with delivery partners to monitor and review services to ensure they continue to meet needs.</p>	<p>The Welsh Government continues to work closely with delivery partners, with services monitored and reviewed on a monthly basis. Policy officials and veterinary advisers from the four Administrations, alongside a representative from Animal and Plant Health Agency hold a monthly teleconference to discuss progress and current issues in delivering the NCPs.</p> <p>Where cases or incidents occur, a review is carried out of the actions undertaken and resulting outcomes. Where necessary processes are refined.</p> <p>A bi-annual meeting focused on industry issues is also held with key stakeholders/industry.</p>

Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies – Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE)

Key Actions	Progress Update
To draft and consult on consolidated Welsh TSE regulations, which will revoke and replace the 2008 Regulations.	The Welsh Government is in the process of drafting consolidated Wales TSE Regulations which will revoke and replace the 2008 Regulations. There will be a public consultation developed with Defra and Food Standards Agency (FSA) which is expected to be launched in the Spring.
Effective and timely response to any notifiable disease occurrence.	<p>EU law requires we carry out active disease surveillance for BSE in cattle, including the testing of fallen stock and those animals sent for emergency slaughter. In 2016/17, as at 31 December 2016, no cases of BSE have been detected in cattle via active surveillance in Wales.</p> <p>The Animal and Plant Health Agency also carry out passive surveillance, where animals with clinical signs suspicious of any TSE are reported to an Animal and Plant Health Agency Office to be investigated. Such cases are slaughtered and the examination of the brain determines whether the animal was affected by BSE.</p> <p>As at 31 December there have been no cases of BSE confirmed in Wales from any surveillance type. www.gov.uk/government/statistics/cattle-tse-surveillance-statistics</p> <p>To assess the effectiveness of the feed ban controls, a national feed audit is carried out which inspects and samples various stages of the animal feed chain. The Animal and Plant Health Agency are on target to complete all of the 225 profiled National Feed Audit visits in Wales 2016/17.</p>
To continue to work with delivery partners to monitor and review services to ensure they continue to meet needs.	<p>The Welsh Government continues to work closely with delivery partners, and services are monitored and reviewed on a monthly basis. Where cases or incidents occur, a lessons learnt review is carried out of the actions undertaken at each stage of the case history and where necessary processes are refined.</p> <p>The Welsh Government also liaise closely with the other administrations to ensure Welsh views are fully represented at TSE discussions and voting procedures at the European Commission level.</p>

Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies – Scrapie

Key Actions	Progress Update
<p>To draft and consult on consolidated Welsh TSE regulations, which will revoke and replace the 2008 Regulations.</p>	<p>The Welsh Government is in the process of drafting consolidated Wales TSE Regulations which will revoke and replace the 2008 Regulations. There will be a public consultation developed with Defra and Food Standards Agency which will be launched in the Spring.</p> <p>These include changes to Annex VII of the EU TSE Regulations relating to on-farm classical scrapie controls. Changes to domestic legislation will formalise measures that were introduced administratively, across the UK on 1 July 2013. This provides a more risk proportionate approach to disease control and allows for the adoption of the monitoring and surveillance option (as the default position) rather than the killing and destroying of affected flocks.</p>
<p>Effective and timely response to any notifiable disease occurrence, and implementation and adherence to the requirements of the Compulsory Scrapie Flock Scheme where necessary.</p>	<p>As at the 31 December, in 2016/17 there have been no classical scrapie cases identified and one case of atypical scrapie (identified via active surveillance methods including the Compulsory Scrapie Flock Scheme, Fallen Stock surveys and the Scrapie Sheep and Goat Survey) in sheep in Wales.</p> <p>Passive surveillance measures have identified neither classical nor atypical scrapie in sheep in 2016/17 to date. www.gov.uk/government/statistics/sheep-tse-surveillance-statistics</p> <p>There have been no cases of scrapie confirmed in goats in Wales in 2016/17 as at 31 December. www.gov.uk/government/statistics/goats-tse-surveillance-statistics</p>
<p>Work with delivery partners to monitor and review services to ensure they continue to meet needs.</p>	<p>The Welsh Government continues to work closely with delivery partners, to monitor and review services on a monthly basis. Where cases occur, a review is carried out of the actions undertaken and where necessary, processes are refined.</p> <p>The Welsh Government also liaise closely with the other administrations to ensure Welsh views are fully represented at TSE discussions and voting procedures at the European Commission level.</p>

Surveillance and Laboratory Review

Key Actions	Progress Update
Publish a new surveillance framework.	A surveillance framework strategy is being developed and is intended to be completed in March 2017.
Seek benefits for Wales from APHA's review of their laboratory network.	The outcome of the review is still awaited.
Continue to work with the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) on the continuing development of their Centre of Expertise in Carmarthen.	<p>The development of the Centre of Expertise is on-going. A conference was held in Bristol University to consider the future development of the Centre.</p> <p>Following APHA's review of their laboratory testing services, in consultation with Welsh Government, it has been agreed to transfer all the parasitology testing for the APHA network to Carmarthen Veterinary Investigation Centre. This will include the unique tests currently delivered from Shrewsbury. In order to deliver this, alongside gamma testing and the proposed increases in capacity, APHA will be recruiting additional staff.</p>

Welfare of Animals at Time of Slaughter

Key Actions	Progress Update
<p>Review the report produced by the CCTV Task and Finish Group to assess the need and possible implementation of a workable system of CCTV in slaughterhouses.</p>	<p>A final version of the report produced by the CCTV Task and Finish Group was considered by the Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs and published on the Welsh Government website. www.gov.wales/docs/drah/publications/161215-cctv-in-wales-slaughter-houses-en.pdf</p> <p>The Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs asked the Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework Group for their opinion on the findings within the report to help inform the way forward.</p>
<p>Through discussions with Local Authorities, Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) and Food Standards Agency (FSA), improve data presented to Welsh Government on reporting, which will improve the evidence gathered on non compliance with welfare requirements of animals transported to slaughterhouses.</p>	<p>A partnership approach is being adopted by the FSA, LA's and APHA to improve the reporting procedures. Improved communications enabling greater transparency has been initiated by the FSA ensuring appropriate action is taken, where necessary.</p> <p>The Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework Group also considered this issue at their meeting in June 2016 where an approach to improve the evidence base around the enforcement of the Welfare of Animals in Transport Legislation was discussed.</p>
<p>Working with Wales Heads of Trading Standards to develop and establish a different way of delivering key animal health and welfare enforcement across all Local Authorities via the creation of an Enforcement Delivery Plan.</p>	<p>The Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs has agreed a new partnership structure between Welsh Government and Heads of Trading Standards to better focus policy plans with more effective enforcement actions on key animal health and welfare matter that could include welfare during transport.</p>
<p>Work with UK Government to contribute to European Commission developments following the EC consumer study on animal welfare influence on purchasing decisions.</p>	<p>At this time the European Commission has not provided further proposals for the development of this subject.</p> <p>The Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer and the Food Policy team within Welsh Government continues to monitor the progress on this matter.</p>

Section 3: Emerging Policies

Key Actions	Progress Update
Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) – Future Services.	There is agreement to extend current delivery arrangements for the next three years. Work will continue on improving, the transparency of funding arrangements, the governance and the general service delivery landscape. Further progress will be subject to regular review.
Animal and Plant Health Agency – Review of Charges for Services Delivered by APHA.	<p>APHA have undertaken a public consultation on proposed changes to existing charges for some of the services that they provide and, the introduction of new charges for services.</p> <p>The aim of the proposed changes is to reduce taxpayer subsidy of APHA services by transferring some of the costs to those who benefit from the agency’s services.</p> <p>These charges need to be agreed across all 3 Great Britain Administrations. The response to the public consultation will be published in due course with legislation expected to be introduced in the Summer.</p>
EU Animal Health Law.	<p>The Regulation was published in the Official Journal in April 2016 and can be found at: www.eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2016.084.01.0001.01.ENG&toc=OJ:L:2016:084:TOC</p> <p>While the United Kingdom remains within the European Union, there is still the requirement to uphold all the rules and Regulations associated with that. There are on-going discussions across Welsh Government and UK Administrations to consider to what extent the new rules are applied in the context of the UK leaving the EU and the machinery for achieving this.</p>

Section 4: Keeping you Informed

Join Our Partnership Networks

Partnership working and increased collaboration with stakeholders is a fundamental element to the implementation of the Framework. To receive latest news and information directly on opportunities to get involved then you can register your interest on our stakeholder database.

Please complete the registration form at:
www.wales.gov.uk/ahwframework

If you would like a hard copy of the registration form then please contact us using the details below.

Visit Our Website

Find the latest information on the Framework and the Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework Group at:
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Email us at WAHFG@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

Or write to us at:

Wales Animal Health & Welfare Framework Team
Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer
Welsh Government Buildings
Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ

