

## **WALES ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE FRAMEWORK GROUP**

### **Minutes of the Meeting held in Cathays Park, Cardiff on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2014**

#### **Present:**

Peredur Hughes                      Chair  
Joanna Price  
Huw Davies  
Ifan Lloyd  
David Davies  
Moss Jones

#### **Welsh Government**

Christianne Glossop              Chief Veterinary Officer  
Chris Hale                              Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer (OCVO)  
Carol Harris                            Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer (OCVO)  
Janet Perry                              Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer (OCVO)

#### **Agenda Item 1 - Welcome, Apologies & Introduction**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the Group. The Chair provided an update on the meeting he had with the Minister for Natural Resources and Food, that the morning. The meeting covered a number of subject areas including the development of the Animal Health and Welfare Framework, aspects of TB policy, the work being carried forward by the Sub Group on Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD), the meeting the Chair had with his respective counterparts in England, Scotland and Ireland. He explained that it was an extremely useful meeting and that the Minister was particularly interested in the developments on BVD. The Minister advised he was encouraged by the appointment of the new Framework Group and the work it will be taking forward over the coming months.

#### **Agenda Item 2 – Message from Chief Veterinary Officer**

Christianne commented that she was really looking forward to working with the new Group. She explained that the new Wales Animal Health & Welfare Framework will replace the 10 year Great Britain Animal Health & Welfare Strategy which was launched in 2004 and will end this year. She explained that developing the Framework is a collective opportunity to help Wales focus on the priorities for Welsh Government and industry and to link in where appropriate with other UK administrations.

She explained that over the past 10 years Welsh Government have adhered to the 5 key principles set out in the Great Britain Animal Health & Welfare Strategy. She explained that these principles formed the core of the new Framework. In addition, she stressed the importance of learning from the past 10 years and that it was vital that the work of the former Animal Health & Welfare Strategy Steering Group, in particular the sub groups on BVD and

sheep scab be carried forward. Christianne went on to describe some of the key issues surrounding current TB policy. Christianne commented that the focus now was to build on existing relationships but also looking strategically at identifying priorities, using the expertise of the Group and other stakeholders and also looking at short and longer term aims that the Group should focus on.

Christianne explained that Welsh Government is taking a different approach to the implementation of the Wales Animal Health & Welfare Framework. It will be implemented using an outcomes based approach and fundamental to the success of this will be increased collaborative working with industry. She commented that this was an opportunity to change ways of working to ensure a focus on delivery that can be measured. To support the Group with this work, Christianne explained that officials are building a stakeholder database. This will help target communications and key messages but also help bring the right people, with the right expertise together to discuss and agree a way forward, using the outcomes based approach.

She explained that to ensure links are maintained across Great Britain and Northern Ireland, she meets on a monthly basis with the other Chief Veterinary Officers.

### **Agenda Item 3 - Terms of Reference and stocktake of skills**

The Chair commented that the Terms of Reference for the Group had already been circulated and asked if anyone had any comments to make on them. The Group agreed the Terms of Reference with minor amendments as discussed (and reflected in the action points).

It was agreed that the Group would produce a strategic delivery plan setting out the Groups short and long terms objectives. It was agreed that the issues of budgets and finance would be discussed at the next meeting.

A discussion took place around the importance of stakeholder engagement and the need to broaden this going forward to include organisations/ individuals looking at companion animals, equine, fish, honeybees, hobby farmers. It was also suggested that it would be useful to consider alternative events where the Framework Group could have a presence such as at the Spring Fair next year. Events like this are an opportunity for the Group to make the links with other stakeholders.

***Action Point 1 - Secretariat to amend ToR to include; Reference to guidance on re-appointments and reference to the production & publication of a Delivery Plan***

***Action Point 2 – Secretariat to arrange presentation on budgets at next meeting in September***

***Action Point 3 - Group members to consider stakeholders, including***

**organisations and groups. Members to forward suggestions to the Secretariat.**

**Action Point 4 - Secretariat to contact Steve Hughson, Royal Welsh Agricultural Society to ask whether Welsh Government/Framework Group could have a presence at the Spring Fair.**

#### **Agenda Item 4 – Current Position**

The Chair referred to the “Hot Issues Brief” which had been circulated to the Group prior to the meeting. The Group agreed that the Hot Issues Brief would be updated and circulated for information monthly.

The Group had a discussion about the priorities of the former Animal Health & Welfare Strategy Steering Group. The Group agreed that there is potentially a lot of data being collected by different organisations on priority diseases, but it needed to be collated and analysed to help inform their discussions on the way forward. The Group also agreed that priorities needed to be reviewed and broadened to reflect the scope of the Animal Health & Welfare Framework.

The Chair provided an update on the BVD sub-group. He explained that they were aiming to submit their report for the Minister’s consideration during the summer. It was agreed that the report would be circulated to the Group for discussion at their meeting in September.

The report submitted to the Minister from the sheep scab sub-group was discussed. It was agreed that Welsh Government draft reply on the report will be shared with the Group for comment but the Group to note that the Minister would need to formally consider and agree final response.

There was discussion around the extent the new Framework Group needed involvement in TB policy and the Group agreed that they need to be aware of what is happening and any new proposals. It was agreed that as the Chair is also the Chair of the North Wales Eradication Board he would be the link and would keep the Group informed of developments.

Christianne gave an update on Risk Based Trading and explained there was still a lot of work to be done.

**Action Point 5 – Secretariat to circulate a monthly Hot Issues Brief.**

**Action Point 6 - Secretariat to commission work to consider baseline evidence on disease priorities carried forward from the Animal Health & Welfare Strategy Steering Group. Priorities will be reviewed at next meeting.**

**Action Point 7 - Secretariat to add BVD to the agenda for next meeting.**

**Action Point 8- Secretariat to add presentation on TB Eradication programme to the agenda for the next meeting.**

***Action Point 9 - Secretariat to circulate the TB Epidemiology report in advance of the next meeting.***

### **Agenda Item 5 – Forward Look**

The Chair explained that since the Animal Health & Welfare Framework consultation had ended, the Secretariat have been working on producing the actual Framework document. A children's version of the document will also be produced.

The aim is for the Minister to launch the Framework at the Royal Welsh Show on Tuesday 22 July. He explained that there will also be an Animal Health and Welfare Framework seminar in the afternoon of the Tuesday. The Secretariat will forward details once they have been confirmed.

The Chair then asked members to consider the focus of work for the coming months, including short and longer term goals. The Group considered the priorities put forward by stakeholders as part of the public consultation on the Wales Animal Health & Welfare Framework.

Moss stressed the need to link in with the development of the new Rural Development Plan for Wales, with an emphasis on raising standards of biosecurity on farms and health planning.

Huw highlighted the need to forge links with the new Food Strategy. Carol explained that as a first step, the Secretariat would contact the respective teams within Welsh Government to establish a way forward for the Group to be involved.

Jo said she would be interested in linking in with Equine stakeholders. She also explained that it would be useful if members of the Group could look at any initiatives they are aware of ( e.g. the SWAHILI project) which have been applied to endemic diseases where best practice or lessons learned could be applied in Wales.

The Group also agreed that they would consider how they could assist with the implementation of the forthcoming regulations on Dog Breeding and microchipping.

The Group agreed that to ensure effective communication between meetings then the option of an on-line discussion forum should be explored.

***Action Point 10 - AHW Framework Group to attend Royal Welsh Show and the AHW Framework Launch on the 22nd July. Secretariat to confirm details as soon as they are available.***

***Action Point 11 - Secretariat to meet with Welsh Government policy leads on the following; Rural Development Plan for Wales, Food Action Plan, Companion Animals and Equines, and report back to Group on findings.***

***Action Point 12 - AHW Framework Group to email Secretariat on any initiatives that have been taken forward on endemic diseases which could be considered by the Group.***

***Action Point 13 - Secretariat to investigate whether the Framework Group could have an electronic discussion forum.***

**Agenda Item 6 – Any Other Business**

The Chair gave the dates of the next meetings for the next year, the dates are as follows:

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> September

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June

There was no other business.

**CLOSE**