

WALES ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE FRAMEWORK GROUP

Minutes of the Meeting held in Cathays Park, Cardiff on 14th June 2017

Present:

Peredur Hughes Chair
Ifan Lloyd
Jo Price
David Davies
Moss Jones
Abi Reader
Paula Boyden (Joined by
teleconference)

Welsh Government

Christianne Glossop Chief Veterinary Officer for Wales
Carol Harris Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer (OCVO)
Janet Perry Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer (OCVO)

Sarah Lewis & Mike Howe Lantra (Item 5)

Apologies

Paul Critchley Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer (OCVO)

Agenda Item 1: Welcome

1. The Chair welcomed everyone to the twelfth meeting of the Group. He congratulated Abi and Paula on their appointments to the Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework Group
2. He explained that apologies were received from Paul Critchley, the newly appointed Head of the Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework, Finance & Strategy team within OCVO. The Chair explained Sarah Lewis and Mike Howe (Lantra) would be joining the meeting to discuss the National Animal Disease Information Service (NADIS) paper and to give a more detailed presentation on their work.

Agenda Item 2: Minutes and Action Points from 15th December

3. The Chair explained the final minutes and updated action points from the last meeting were emailed to Group Members as part of the papers for this meeting.
4. The minutes of the meeting were agreed.

Agenda Item 3: Update from Chair

5. The Chair provided an update as follows;

a) Update on Four Chairs Meeting

The Chair explained he attended the Four Chairs Meeting on the 25th April in London. The main issue discussed was EU Exit and the implications for animal health and welfare. The Group agreed it was crucial for them to continue their engagement on this issue going forwards. Other issues covered were Enforcement and Future of Livestock and ID. Christianne explained the structure in place to deal with EU Exit and engagement with DEFRA. She confirmed, EU Exit was now a standing agenda item at the monthly CVO meetings where England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales are represented.

b) Feedback from the Amaeth Cymru Partnership Group Strategy Sub Group

The Chair explained that he had attended the Amaeth Cymru Partnership Group Strategy Sub Group on the 19th April. Discussion had focussed on the facilitated Agriculture Strategy Workshop. Ifan confirmed he had attended this meeting in March. Linked to this the Chair also set out the latest position with the application for RDP funding for the BVD Eradication Scheme. The Group expressed some concern regarding the length of time being taken for the outcome of the application process to be known. They also expressed concern about the application process and how it was important to understand this process for any future applications. The Group agreed to write to the Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs for an update on the BVD Eradication Scheme Application and seeking clarity on the application process.

Action Point 1 > Group to write to the Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs for an update on the BVD Eradication Scheme Application and seeking clarity on the application process.

c) Animal Health Planning Meeting 18th May - Moss

The Chair confirmed the Animal Health Planning sub group was now established and had met on 18th May. He explained Moss had chaired the meeting. He explained the Terms of Reference for the sub group were agreed and work would now progress over the coming months. Part of this work will include consideration of the Farmer Segmentation Model.

d) Brexit Update - updates from members

The Chair thanked everyone for agreeing to sit on the EU Roundtable Working Groups and confirmed who had agreed to sit on each Group. The agreed list is as follows;

- Legislation & Regulation Working Group - Moss
- Trade & Supply Chains Working Group – Dai
- Land Management Working Group – Peredur
- Evidence & Scenarios Working Group - Ifan

Ifan attended the Evidence & Scenarios Working Group on the 12th May Carmarthen. He explained it had been a very useful meeting and agreed to share the evidence paper with the Group. He also recommended the Group read the BVA report on EU Exit. Christianne recommended the Group also have sight of the paper produced by Lord Trees on the implications of Brexit on veterinary provision.

Action point 2 > Secretariat to circulate evidence paper, BVA report and Lord Trees report to Group members.

The Group agreed there was a complex picture of groups either in place, newly formed or being developed. They agreed it would be important to understand the governance structures being established.

Action Point 3 > Secretariat to forward an organogram of the EU Exit governance structure to the Group.

The Group also discussed attendance at the Cattle and Sheep Health and Welfare Groups. The dates for the SHAWG meetings will be circulated again and members will consider who should attend now that Huw Davies has left the Group.

Due to the number of meetings the Group are now required to attend, the Secretariat agreed to produce a Forward Plan to include all forthcoming meetings.

Action Point 4 > Secretariat to produce Forward Plan for meetings

Agenda Item 4: Update from Christianne

6. Christianne provided an update as follows;

- **Avian influenza**

The work to deal with the outbreak of avian influenza remains on-going. Discussions are now focused on how to deal with the disease ongoing. The major concern would be any strains of the disease which are infectious to humans. Work is also progressing to work with industry to develop a Code of Practice for cleansing and disinfection.

- **Bluetongue**

BTv8 is circulating in France. Work is on-going to review the risk assessment for the UK. It is important to ensure appropriate messages are communicated to industry. Christianne asked the Wales AHWF Group to feed in their thoughts on key messaging.

Action Point 5 > Group members to send their thoughts on messages that could be conveyed to industry on Bluetongue to the Secretariat.

- **Quarantine Units**

The coming into force date is now confirmed as 11th September.

- **Bovine TB**

The Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs will be making a statement on bovine TB Eradication on 20th June.

- **Animal Welfare Codes of Practice**

Work is continuing to review and update the Animal Welfare Codes of Practice. A consultation on the Equine Code of Practice is due to be launched at the Royal Welsh Show. This will be followed by consultations on the broiler and layer welfare codes of practice.

- **Mobile Animal Exhibits**

Work is progressing to prepare a public consultation on Mobile Animal Exhibits.

- **Animal Abuse Register**

This is an emerging issue. The RSPCA have agreed to set up a Task and Finish Group to consider this and options for establishing a register for Wales.

Agenda Item 5: Farming Connect update on National Animal Disease Information Service (NADIS) paper – Sarah Lewis and Mike Howe

7. The Chair welcomed Sarah Lewis and Mike Howe from Lantra. They delivered a presentation on the work of NADIS and sought endorsement from the Group on their approach to working in partnership with Farming Connect.
8. The Chair thanked Mike and Sarah for their interesting presentation. The Group confirmed they were content to endorse the approach being taken by NADIS and Lantra. Carol confirmed Farming Connect did have a list of animal health and welfare priorities with work progressing to complete the required Concept for Delivery templates. She also explained there was a meeting on 20th June of the Farming Connect Policy Group which was a further opportunity for discussion around priorities and next steps.

Agenda Item 6: Ways of working going forward

9. The Chair explained the objective for both this and the next agenda item was to follow up on the discussions held at the Group's recent Away day and bring the new members into these discussions going forward.
10. The Chair explained the Group had reviewed their terms of reference at the Away Day. The consensus is the Terms of Reference do not need amending at this point in time. The Group agreed they would keep them under review in the coming year. The Group also agreed the importance of linking with both existing and new groups being established under the portfolio of environment and rural affairs.
11. Carol went through the recommendations the Group had put forward on the revised ways of working. These were agreed and the Secretariat will now incorporate these into the planning of meetings and ways of working.

Action Point 6 > Secretariat to implement the recommendations agreed at the Away day.

Agenda Item 7: Delivery of Wales AHWF Group priorities for 17/18

12. Carol explained work was progressing to develop the Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework Implementation Plan 2017/18. She explained, as part of this process both the Welsh Government and the Wales AHWF Group had considered the evidence gathered through the stakeholder workshops held earlier in the year. The Wales AHWF Group also discussed their priorities at the recent Away day. Carol explained the priorities agreed for 2017/18 were as follows;

- Animal Health Planning
- Anthelmintic Resistance
- Antimicrobial resistance (AMR)
- Biosecurity
- BVD
- Engagement with the Welfare Sector – Equine and Companion Animals
- Increased Collaboration and Partnership Working
- Sheep Lameness
- Sheep Scab

13. The Group also agreed two emerging issues which they would look to start considering over the coming 12 months;

- Cattle lameness
- The pig sector

14. These will be included under the “Emerging Priorities” Section of the Wales AHWF Implementation Plan.

15. The Group agreed all engagement work including the poultry sector, links to Amaeth Cymru the Food Industry Board, and the EU Exit work would be covered under “Increased Collaboration and Partnership Working”. The Group agreed to keep “Engagement with the Welfare Sector” as a priority as they recognised the need to forge links with the new Chair of Animal Welfare Network Wales.

Action Point 7 > Secretariat to invite the Chair of Animal Welfare Network Wales to the September meeting of the Wales AHWF Group.

Agenda Item 8. AOB

16. The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and confirmed that the next meeting is on the 6th September in Cathay’s Park.

CLOSE