

WALES ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE FRAMEWORK GROUP

Minutes of the Meeting held in Cathays Park, Cardiff on 2nd December 2015

Present:

Peredur Hughes	Chair
Christianne Glossop	Chief Veterinary Officer for Wales
Joanna Price	
Ifan Lloyd	
David Davies	
Moss Jones	

Welsh Government

Carol Harris	Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer (OCVO)
Janet Perry	Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer (OCVO)
Tony Joss	Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer (OCVO)
Les Eckford	Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer (OCVO)
Irene Allen	Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer (OCVO)
Tony Jermyn	Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer (OCVO)

John Fitzgerald	Responsible Use of Medicines in Agriculture Alliance (afternoon)
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Agenda Item 1: Welcome

1. The Chair welcomed everyone to the seventh meeting of the Group and said apologies were received from Huw Davies. The Chair explained that Tony Joss will be joining us this afternoon to give an update on the 6 Day Standstill and also John Fitzgerald (RUMA) will be joining this afternoon to give a presentation on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR).

Agenda Item 2: Minutes and Action Points from 17th September Meeting

2. The final minutes and updated action points from the last meeting were emailed to Group Members in November as part of the papers for this meeting. The majority of the actions have been completed. Some actions remain on-going whilst others have been tabled for discussion at this meeting. The following topics were raised;
 - Surveillance Governance Board (SGB) – Christianne explained that Nick Fenwick is representing Welsh interests on the SGB. She explained that the SGB had been set up to ensure that the outstanding recommendations in the Surveillance 2014 Report were delivered and that there is an improved surveillance network across Wales and England and also established links with the Scottish Surveillance system. Christianne explained that the SGB was in its early stages of development and that it was important to establish and understand the role of the SGB and the reporting lines to the AHWF Group. Christianne explained that she will now be attending the SGB

meetings. It was agreed that the Chair of the SGB would be invited to the AHWF Group meeting in March.

Action Point 1: Secretariat to invite the Chair of the SGB to the March meeting of the AHWF Group.

- Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD) – Dai queried how long it will take to secure funding through the Rural Development Plan for Wales. Moss and Dai expressed concern that the process had already taken longer than initially expected and also queried whether this delay would have implications on the plans to deliver the eradication programme if the application was approved. The Group agreed that Peredur would write a letter to Andrew Slade seeking clarification on the timetable.

Action Point 2: Peredur to write to Andrew Slade seeking clarification on the timetable for the RDP application approval process.

- TB Web Programme –Ifan asked for an update on Information Bovine TB (IBTB) website. Christianne explained that there was an annulment debate on the TB Order which had been won by Welsh Government. The web based programme to look at contiguous premises will be launched in March. The Deputy Minister has agreed that if there are any issues regarding the security of the system then she will consider withdrawing it immediately.

Agenda Item 3: Update from Chair

3. Peredur provided an update on recent activity.

- Meeting with Deputy Minister for Farming and Food - Peredur explained that he had a useful meeting with the Deputy Minister for Farming and Food in November. He provided an update on the work the Group including engaging with the welfare sector, Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), biosecurity, BVD and Sheep Scab. He confirmed that his next meeting with her is on the 16th March.
- Sheep Scab & Sheep Lameness - Peredur explained that following discussion with OCVO officials, Ifan and Moss were reviewing the proposal with a view to submitting shortly. Janet confirmed that Huw was in contact with Ruth Clements on sheep lameness.

Action Point 3: Moss and Ifan to submit revised proposal.

- BVD – Peredur confirmed that the BVD the Expression of Interest for Rural Development Plan for Wales funding had been submitted. Following the earlier discussion, the Group agreed that it would be useful to write to interested organisations to provide an update on progress and also issue a general update to the wider public.

Action Point 4: Secretariat to draft BVD update and prepare letter for key organisations and arrange for it to be made available to the wider public.

- Four Chairs - Peredur explained that the next Four Chairs meeting will be in Cardiff on the 14th January. It was agreed for members to send any suggested agenda items to the Secretariat.

Action Point 5: Members to send suggested agenda items to the Secretariat.

- CHAWG/SHAWG - Peredur explained that the Secretariat have circulated the minutes and papers from the last CHAWG and SHAWG meetings as well as future meeting dates. Peredur and Dai confirmed they can attend the CHAWG meeting on the 28th January and Huw has confirmed he will attend the SHAWG meeting on the 4th February. He also said that the Secretariat had circulated the CHAWG AMR Project Planning meeting notes from the 20th October and explained that CHAWG were now planning to hold a workshop on 14th January to discuss how the cattle sector may move forward in the collection and aggregation of medicine use data at farm level. Peredur stressed that it is really important that the Group engage with CHAWG on this work.

Action Point 6: Secretariat to confirm who will attend the CHAWG workshop on 14th January.

- Christianne explained that AMR was an extremely important issue and that she was working to establish links with the Chief Medical Officer for Wales to assess potential for joint working.
- Strategic Framework for Agriculture - Peredur explained that the response to the consultation has been acknowledged so we await the publication of the full results. Carol explained that she had met with officials working on the Agriculture Framework. The Group agreed that it was important to understand the membership, role and remit of the proposed partnership group and how this will link with the AHWF Group. It was agreed that this would be included in the letter from Peredur to Andrew Slade – see Action Point 2.

Agenda Item 4: Update from Christianne Glossop, Chief Veterinary Officer For Wales

4. Christianne provided an update as follows;
 - NFU Cymru Poultry Conference – Christianne explained that she had been invited to present at the conference, covering avian influenza. She explained that it had been a very positive meeting where poultry industry representatives took their responsibilities for biosecurity very seriously. It has been recorded as an action from the previous meeting to invite representatives from the poultry industry to the AHWF Group meeting in March.

- Contingency Planning – Christianne explained that she had participated in a recent contingency exercise “Exercise Rowan”. She explained that a key focus of the exercise was to consider the evidence on whether to vaccinate against foot and mouth or not.
- Aberystwyth University – Christianne explained that she was aware that the University were progressing plans for a vet school and that they had secured funding for a Foundation Dean who will be responsible for pulling together the business plan and proposed syllabus. This is a major milestone in this process.
- Animal and Plant Health Agency – Christianne explained that APHA were in the process of reviewing their Grade 6 vets and non-vets with a view to restructuring. She agreed to update the AHWF Group as necessary.
- Deputy Chief Veterinary Officer for the United Kingdom (DCVO) – Christianne explained that the current DCVO was retiring later this month. Christianne agreed to keep the AHWF Group updated on the process to recruit a successor.
- Welfare of Animals At Time of Killing – Christianne explained that there had been a meeting with Food Business Operators at the Winter Fair to discuss the use of CCTV in abattoirs. She explained that this had been a very useful meeting and that she will keep the AHWF Group updated on progress as necessary.
- Illegal Importation of Puppies – Christianne explained that there had been a number of instances in the last few months. She explained that these represent a real risk of introducing disease and that meetings were taking place with local authorities on the handling of these cases in accordance with the legislation.
- TB – Christianne explained that the Deputy Minister for Farming and Food had made a statement yesterday on Badger Vaccination. It was agreed that if members have any questions then send these to the Secretariat mailbox.

Action Point 7: Members to send any questions on badger vaccination to the Secretariat Mailbox.

Agenda Item 5: Animal Health & Welfare Framework Implementation Plan for 2015/16

5. Peredur explained that Welsh Government are committed to publishing a Mid

Year Review of the Animal Health & Welfare Framework Implementation Plan which will be published in the New Year.

6. Carol thanked the Group for the comments that they have made on the draft Mid-year Review. She explained that advice would be submitted to Ministers before Christmas. Subject to Ministerial approval the Mid-year Review will be published in the last week of January. Carol asked for any final comments to be sent to the Secretariat Mailbox as soon as possible.

Action Point 8: Members to send any final comments on the AHWF Implementation Plan Mid-year Review to the Secretariat mailbox as soon as possible.

Agenda Item 6. Welfare Sector Priorities

7. Peredur welcomed Les Eckford, Veterinary Advisor and Irene Allen, Head of Animal Welfare Policy. He explained that Jo and Ifan have been actively involved in progressing work on engagement with the equine and companion animal welfare sector. This included a meeting with the Animal Welfare Network Wales (AWNW) on the 23rd October. Jo and Ifan explained that the meeting had been very positive and the key action agreed was for both sectors to forward their top 3 priorities to the AHWF Group by Christmas. The Group agreed that an update on this work should be made available so that any other interested parties who are not members of the AWWN have the opportunity to feed in their views.

Action Point 9: Secretariat to draft update on engagement with the welfare sector and arrange publication on the AHWF web pages.

8. Peredur explained that the AHWF Group have been asked to provide a view on the draft Review of Recent Evidence in Relation to the Welfare Implications for Cats and Dogs Arising From the Use of Electronic Shock Collars. It was agreed that members will submit comments to the Secretariat mailbox.

Action Point 10: Members to send comments on the Review of Electronic Shock Collars to the Secretariat Mailbox.

Agenda Item 7: EU Animal Health Regulation

9. Peredur welcomed Tony Jermyn, policy lead on EU Animal Health regulation and Les Eckford, Veterinary Advisor. Peredur explained that the Group have received the July Core Brief on EU Animal Health Regulation. Les explained that the draft regulation has been agreed and is likely to be published in spring 2016. Full implementation is estimated to be likely by 2021. Tony explained that a Technical Working Group was now in place to work on tertiary

negotiations. It was agreed that the AHWF Group will be updated and involved in the process as necessary.

Agenda Item 8: Biosecurity Campaign

10. Peredur commented that he was pleased with the good response to the Biosecurity Survey which resulted in over 300 responses. Carol explained that the members had been sent the statistical analysis and initial policy analysis of the results. She explained that work was now progressing to pull together the draft final report. She explained that the Deputy Minister for Farming and Food had expressed an interest in seeing the results and had agreed in principle to issue a Written Statement on their publication. Carol explained that the final draft report and advice would go to Ministers before Christmas. The intention is to publish the report in the 1st week of February. She explained that work was also being done in parallel to produce 4 case study films which will be published shortly after the survey results, focussing on the topics covered by the survey. Carol explained that she will circulate the draft report to members for final comments.

Action Point 11: Secretariat to circulate draft report for final comment. Members to send comments to the Secretariat Mailbox.

Agenda Item 9: Six Day Standstill - Update on Workshops and Consultation

11. Peredur welcomed Tony Joss, Head of Exotic Disease Policy to the meeting. Tony explained that the consultation on the Six Day Standstill was due to be launched before Christmas. He explained that industry stakeholders had been actively involved in the development of the consultation and the options presented within it. He explained that the consultation would be open for a 10 week period. Moss stated that it would be a very positive step if as many farmers as possible can be encouraged to use quarantine units as this is a key factor to improving biosecurity standards. Dai stated that it was vital to get industry buy in. Ifan explained that it would be important to monitor how smaller farms deal with quarantine units and potential cost implications. The Group agreed that they would need to consider the consultation and provide a response. It was agreed that a meeting would be set up in the New Year to discuss the consultation papers.

Action Point 12: Secretariat to arrange meeting in the New Year for the Group to discuss the Six Day Standstill Consultation.

Agenda Item 10: Presentation and discussion on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)

12. Peredur explained that one of the actions from a previous meeting was to invite John Fitzgerald from RUMA to give a presentation and discussion on AMR. He welcomed John to the meeting and explained that AMR is one of the Groups

key priorities for 2015/16. He explained that the Group are considering how they can increase awareness of AMR among animal keepers in Wales.

A copy of the presentation is attached to the minutes.

Peredur thanked John for his presentation. Christianne explained that there was an opportunity at this time to discuss AMR as a key priority within the new Farming Connect Service. The Group agreed that it was really important to keep up to date on the activities of RUMA and the work they are taking forward. John agreed that the Group were welcome to use published RUMA advice and guidance as they felt necessary. Moss suggested that he can include a link to the RUMA website in the Welsh Lamb and Beef Producers newsletter in the New Year.

Action Point 13: Moss to discuss with John inclusion of AMR article and website link for WLBP newsletter.

Agenda Item 11: Any Other Business

13. There was no other business. The next meeting is on 3rd March in Cathays Park.