

Progress against 2017 TB Eradication [Delivery Plan](#)

Action	Progress to date	Continuing discussion, next steps actions arising
<p>1. Post-Movement Testing (PoMT) in the Low TB Area From 1 October 2017, all cattle moved into the Low TB Area required a PoMT. This includes any cattle moved from the High Risk and Edge Areas in England.</p>	<p>Achieved as part of the regionalised approach to TB eradication. PoMT in the Low TB area found two holdings in 2021 with a level of disease that may not have been picked up until the next herd test. One holding is now Officially TB Free and the other is on the path to TB Free status.</p> <p>The Bovine TB: annual surveillance report 2019 showed the percentage of moves within the Low TB Area had increased from 72.7% in 2017 to 81.6% in 2018 suggesting farmers were making less risky purchases in order to avoid PoMT.</p> <p>In 2020, 76.4% of movements were within the Low TB Area. However, 19.4% of movements into the Low TB Area are from Intermediate and High TB Areas of Wales or from England's Edge and High Risk Areas, suggesting some keepers are continuing to make high risk purchases.</p>	<p>We consulted on proposals to expand the PoMT requirement to other areas in Wales. The responses will help inform a refreshed Delivery Plan.</p>
<p>2. Pre-Movement Testing (PrMT) in the Low TB Area From 1 October 2017 PrMT would not be required for cattle moved within or from the Low TB Area. PrMT will continue to be required for cattle moved within, between</p>	<p>Achieved as part of the regionalised approach to TB eradication.</p>	<p>Experience has shown that without PrMT it is difficult to tackle localised spread of brought-in disease in the Low TB Area.</p> <p>Our recent consultation set out proposals to re-introduce PrMT in the</p>

<p>or from the Intermediate and High TB Areas.</p>		<p>Low TB Area. The responses will help inform a refreshed Delivery Plan.</p>
<p>3. Clearing test in chronic TB herd breakdowns From 1 October 2017 in persistent herd breakdowns, the clearing test would no longer be able to be used as a PrMT.</p>	<p>Achieved and Ongoing as part of Action Plan process.</p>	<p>The recent consultation set out proposals to expand this measure to other parts of Wales, beyond persistent breakdowns. The responses will help inform a refreshed Delivery Plan.</p>
<p>4. Inconclusive Reactors in chronic herd breakdowns From 1 October all Inconclusive Reactors in persistent herd breakdowns would be slaughtered</p>	<p>Achieved and Ongoing as part of Action Plan process. Policy subsequently amended to slaughter of all standard interpretation Inconclusive Reactors and gamma and IDEXX testing of all severe interpretation Inconclusive Reactors.</p>	<p>Action plans are subject to continuous monitoring and review.</p>
<p>5. Compensation for within herd movements in chronic breakdowns In chronic herd TB breakdowns where cattle are moved under licence within a CPH, compensation would be reduced to 50% if they are subsequently slaughtered as a result of TB.</p>	<p>Achieved and Ongoing as part of Action Plan process. Policy subsequently amended to reduce compensation for cattle moved under licence within a County Parish Holding where the movement is over 3km from main premises.</p> <p>In total, 363 intra-herd movement licences have been issued.</p> <p>7 holdings have been subject to reduced compensation due to the movement of 60 animals that were subsequently slaughtered because of TB.</p>	<p>Action plans are subject to continuous monitoring and review.</p>

<p>6. Compensation Cap From 1 October 2017 the current £15,000 cap on TB compensation payable per animal would be reduced to £5,000.</p>	<p>Achieved and ongoing. For the financial year 2021/22, a total of 33 animals have been subject to a compensation reduction due to the reported market value of the animal exceeding the compensation cap. This policy has saved approximately £36,300 for this period, however, some valuers knowing that the cap will be applied may have reported a market value of £5,000. This would reduce the reported amount saved due to this policy.</p>	<p>Proposals to change the TB Payments regime were included in the consultation. The responses will help inform a refreshed Delivery Plan.</p> <p>We will undertake further consultation with industry before any changes are made.</p>
<p>7. Exempt Finishing Units (EFUs) EFUs will be phased out by 1 January 2018.</p>	<p>Achieved. EFUs phased out in January 2018</p>	<p>Whilst EFUs were phased out in 2018 we still recognise the need to support keepers to sell surplus stock during a breakdown.</p> <p>To this end we are working closely with industry to look at the fate of non-economic calves from the dairy industry. In response to concerns raised with regards to milk purchasers' contract requirements to rear all calves to 8 weeks old, rearing Approved Finishing Units (AFUs) and TB dedicated sales (Orange Markets) have been permitted to support the industry.</p> <p>We are considering relevant changes alongside Defra to simplify the application and licensing of moves</p>

		from TB restricted premises to AFUs and TB Isolation Units.
<p>8. Review of gamma interferon test deployment</p> <p>A review of the current usage of the gamma interferon test will be undertaken to ensure deployment is tailored to achieve maximum benefits.</p>	<p>Achieved and ongoing.</p> <p>The use of the gamma interferon and IDEXX tests are subject to continuous monitoring and review and our approach is tailored accordingly to maximise the benefits of these tests. For example the flexible-extended gamma test and the IDEXX test have been increasingly used in persistent and recurrent TB breakdowns and results indicate that animals with a positive reaction to bovine tuberculin within 30 days of a TB skin test are more likely to test positive to these tests than negative testing animals.</p>	<p>We continue to review the use of additional blood testing in Wales in order to ensure the right tests are used in the right circumstances, where they can have the most benefit.</p>
<p>9. Bespoke Action Plans for persistent TB breakdowns</p> <p>We committed to taking action to tackle TB breakdowns lasting more than 18 months through provision of a bespoke Action Plan. Action Plans aim to identify all potential causes of persistence and weaknesses where actions can be taken to address biosecurity issues, increase sensitivity of testing and in a small number of cases directly identify and address TB in wildlife.</p>	<p>Achieved and ongoing.</p> <p>Over the past 5 years, 253 Action Plans have helped support our farmers, with 127 of these breakdowns cleared. More information regarding action plans is available on our interactive dashboard.</p> <p>[Note: Trap and Test - Since 2017, badger trap and test operations have been carried out on a total of 9 farms as part of the comprehensive suite of enhanced measures applied to persistent TB breakdowns. Test positive badgers have been humanely euthanised and test negative badgers micro-chipped, vaccinated and released. The trap and Test operations are being phased out. Work will be completed on existing farms but new ones will not be recruited.]</p>	<p>We will continue to monitor Action Plans and in particular how they can help us to engage with farmers via private and government vets in line with recommendations of the Task and Finish Group on Farmer Engagement.</p>

<p>10. Inconclusive Reactors Notwithstanding the changes to the Inconclusive Reactor policy in chronic herd breakdowns, further consideration will be given to the general management of IRs in non-chronic herd breakdowns</p>	<p>Ongoing. Breakdown management, including management of Inconclusive Reactors is subject to continuous review, given the importance of being able flexibly test higher risk animals in herds based on their prior testing history.</p>	<p>We will continue assessing the management of Inconclusive Reactors going forward, making changes as necessary.</p>
<p>11. Online biosecurity package This will be a longer term goal of the Wales TB Eradication Programme. To support the wider package in the shorter term a 'Biosecurity App' will be developed.</p>	<p>Ongoing. Work was undertaken by industry partners to develop a biosecurity app. Ground testing and user experience survey work was undertaken including via a display at the Royal Welsh Show 2018. Progress was paused due to Covid 19 but new initiatives looking at expanding the scope of an app beyond bovine TB alone are currently underway.</p>	<p>We are looking again at the potentialities of developing a biosecurity app. We are considering widening the scope given IT improvements in communicating and accessing information.</p>
<p>12. Cross compliance Ensuring non-compliance is effectively dealt with is a core value of the Wales TB Eradication Programme. Further consideration will be given to further farm subsidy penalties and/or issuing fixed penalty notices.</p>	<p>Ongoing. Following EU exit, Cross Compliance penalties continue to be applied to keepers who allow their TB test to become overdue Penalties are applied to those in receipt of Basic Payment Scheme and those in receipt of EU Rural Development Programme support, such as Glastir, which continues until 2023.</p>	<p>Work is currently being taken forward alongside the introduction of an Agriculture Bill to co-design the Sustainable Farming Scheme, introduce National Minimum Standards, establish appropriate penalty system for breaches to scheme requirements, and set out transition arrangements. In the longer term work is also underway to develop options to implement civil sanctions, as</p>

		proposed in the December 2020 consultation.
<p>13. Non-bovines A passive bovine TB surveillance scheme in non-bovines will be maintained.</p>	<p>Achieved and ongoing. We have maintained a passive surveillance regime in non-bovine species, and this is working well to identify and manage TB in affected herds/groups.</p>	<p>Proposals to consolidate the existing legislation for sheep and pigs and to require identification of non-bovines for TB testing purposes were included in the consultation. The responses will help inform a refreshed Delivery Plan.</p>
<p>14. Informed Purchasing While farmers will continue to be encouraged to make available the disease history of their herds at the point of sale, the development of an Informed Purchasing Scheme will be a longer term goal of the Wales TB Eradication Programme</p>	<p>Ongoing. We continue to encourage farmers to assess the potential risk of cattle they wish to purchase prior to bring them into their herds. This can be done through the 'information bovine TB' website (ibTB) and by asking for TB information at the point of sale.</p> <p>A number of markets applied for Grant funding from WG to upgrade their facilities in order to display TB information.</p>	<p>Informed Purchasing continues to be at the forefront of thinking about disease control and the active involvement in how farmers (and their vets) can protect cattle herds and farming businesses.</p> <p>It formed a significant part of the recent consultation and new initiatives are likely to form part of our refreshed approach to TB control.</p>
<p>15. Governance The governance of the Programme will be given further consideration with a view to ensuring appropriate and effective arrangements are in place.</p>	<p>Achieved. The structure of Programme Board and Regional Eradication Boards was retained, with closer working between these groups put in place and a review of their Terms of Reference.</p>	<p>Governance of the TB Eradication Programme formed an important part of the consultation and will be vital to driving forward the next stages of eradication in Wales. Our intention is to establish a governance structure which supports policy development and to ensure our approaches are informed by the latest scientific evidence.</p>

16. Continuation of the Badger Found Dead Survey

Achieved and Ongoing.
Continuing the survey allows us to keep a close eye on the disease in badgers found dead in Wales.

In line with the Programme for Government commitment to forbid the culling of badgers to control TB in cattle, we will continue to monitor and review the 'Badger Found Dead Survey' encouraging industry and the general public to continue to report incidents where safe to do so.