

WALES ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE FRAMEWORK GROUP

Minutes of the Meeting held in Cathays Park, Cardiff on 6th September 2017

Present:

Peredur Hughes (PH) Chair
Ifan Lloyd (IL)
Jo Price (JP)
David Davies (DD)
Moss Jones (MJ)
Abi Reader (AR)
Paula Boyden (PB)

Welsh Government

Gavin Watkins (GW)	Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer (OCVO)
Jackie Price (part of meeting)	Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer (OCVO)
Paul Critchley (PC)	Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer (OCVO)
Nikki Fitzgerald (NF)	Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer (OCVO)
Tony Jermyn (part of meeting)	Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer (OCVO)

Peter Jinman - FAWC (Item 6)
Nic De Brauwere – AWWN (Item 7)

Apologies

Christianne Glossop Chief Veterinary Officer Wales

Agenda Item 1: Welcome

1. The Chair welcomed everyone to the thirteenth meeting of the Group. He congratulated Nikki Fitzgerald on her appointment within OCVO and expressed how they looked forward to working together going forward.
2. He explained that apologies were received from Christianne Glossop and that GW would be attending in her place. The Chair advised the Group Peter Jinman and Nic De Brauwere would be joining the meeting to provide an update and answer any questions relating to FAWC and AWWN respectively.
3. The Chair expressed his gratitude to everyone for manning the Welsh Government stand at the Royal Welsh Show.

Agenda Item 2: Minutes and Action Points from 14th June

4. 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.
5. The minutes of the meeting were agreed.

Agenda Item 3: Update from Chair

6. The Chair provided an update as follows;

a) BVD Eradication Scheme (Gwaredu BVD)

Pleased with the Cabinet Secretary for announcing the Gwaredu BVD scheme at the RWS and a launch event is scheduled for 7 September at a Farming Connect demonstration farm in Welshpool. The Chair advised the Group he would be attending and expressed his gratitude to everyone involved in getting the scheme running.

IL confirmed veterinary practices had received their training from Neil Paton and were ready to roll this out.

The group were advised that the WVSC Laboratory at Aberystwyth expects to receive the results of the UKAS accreditation assessment this week, which will allow it to be added to the Gwaredu BVD list of approved laboratories.

AR confirmed that associated to this she has been successful in obtaining funding through Farming Connect in order to visit Sweden, Scotland and Ireland to consider their biosecurity and BVD practices. AR will ensure she will share any info with the Group.

The Chair raised a point about governance, and the Group agreed it is imperative they maintain an over watch of the BVD Eradication scheme.

<p>Action point 1 > Secretariat to request quarterly update reports from Gwaredu BVD which will be considered at each meeting.</p>

b) Next Meeting with the Cabinet Secretary

The Chair is meeting with the Cabinet Secretary in November to update her on the Framework Groups work and will provide an update at the next WAHWFG meeting on the 22nd November.

c) Animal Health Planning Meeting - MJ

The Chair invited MJ to provide an update on the Animal Health Planning sub group meetings.

MJ confirmed that the meetings are progressing well and the group had received a presentation on the Farmer Segmentation Model. MJ advised the group agreed that any AHP needs to complement and fit in with existing assurance schemes.

MJ advised the plan is to provide a report including the conclusions and recommendations to the group at the next WAHWFG meeting in November.

d) Brexit Update - updates from members

The Chair thanked everyone for sitting on the EU Roundtable Working Groups and confirmed who had agreed to sit on each Group, as follows;

- Legislation & Regulation Working Group - MJ
- Trade & Supply Chains Working Group – DD
- Land Management Working Group – PH
- Evidence & Scenarios Working Group - IL

The Chair invited everyone to provide an update of their meetings:

DD advised that the meetings were well attended and heading in the right direction with a paper expected to be produced in the autumn. Lack of details associated with future outcomes such as the markets available is affecting the ability of SMEs to have investment plans in place by 2025. Live Exports is a hot topic and DD advised that he will be closely monitoring this for animal health and welfare issues.

MJ suggested the legislative environment was confusing which is why he requested the update on the EU AH Law (later agenda item).

IL advised there had been four meetings to date of the compact group, which had been focusing on the different scenarios to identify the (common) key priorities for each. Ken Stebbings attended the last meeting and provided a presentation on the various sectors and farm types in Wales. The group is currently preparing a key recommendations document for the Roundtable.

Action point 2 > IL to share a copy of the power point presentation with the Secretariat.

Action point 3 > Secretariat to circulate the power point presentation to the rest of the group.

PH advised his group are agreeing what the key scenarios should be and explained there was a clear split at present between environment and farming sectors. They are also considering the different (non government) funding streams available and issues surrounding open access to farms.

Agenda Item 4: Update from Gavin Watkins and Jackie Price

7. Gavin introduced and invited Jackie Price to provide an update on the Bovine TB work and then provided his own updates as follows;

- **TB Update**

Jackie confirmed following the meeting with Cabinet Secretary on the 20 June a revised TB eradication programme, based on a regional approach has been developed. The Group were reminded this comes into force on the 1 October and the Cabinet Secretary is planning to provide an oral statement to the Assembly on the 3 October. Industry continues to be engaged and a hotline to address any queries or concerns is in place. Complementing this is a Question and Answer

sheet available via the WG webpages which is updated regularly. Following a query from the Group relating to issues associated with shows, Jackie confirmed the WG is working closely with Defra to consider their experiences in England to date.

- **Surveillance**

GW advised the Wales and England Surveillance Board draft review report is currently being considered by CVOs and Ministers. There is an ongoing need for Industry and Government input into surveillance. DCVO (Graeme Cook) is reviewing the delivery of surveillance data via Post Mortems on a UK basis.

Action point 4 > GW to circulate copies of the Surveillance Governance Board papers to the secretariat for onward circulation to the WAHWFG members.

- **Carcass Removal Scheme**

GW confirmed the carcass removal scheme will be extended for a further two years.

- **Salmonella**

GW advised the Aberystwyth Laboratory had identified the presence of Salmonella in sheep which is currently under investigation. The salmonella nucleus identified has been linked to Public Health cases being investigated in the West Midlands.

- **Livestock Sensors**

The FSA are proposing livestock sensors to assist with the tracking and welfare monitoring of livestock. A meeting is being held in Edinburgh on 28 Sept to consider this.

- **Diseases**

Equine Infectious Anemia - suspicion is being investigated from horses originating from Argentina.

Contagious Equine Metritis – Industry are pushing for CEM controls to be led by Vets.

Lumpy Skin Disease – work is continuing to develop the LSD Disease Control Strategy.

- **Badger Found Dead Survey**

The tender for this work is out and due to be awarded imminently.

Agenda Item 5: Communications discussion around possible stakeholder/young people workshops

8. The Chair reminded everyone as part of raising the profile of the Group and the Framework, it was agreed at the Away Day and in the June meeting that the Group would run some workshops with the younger generation.
9. The Chair invited a discussion around what sort of workshops they wanted to hold, how many, when and where, the content and who would facilitate them.

10. Suggestions presented included:
- Using the Wales YFC rural affairs annual conference (RWS in January to hold the workshop)
 - Targeting Land based training colleges to hold the events such as Gelli Aur.
 - Discuss with Future Farmers
 - The need to utilise Social Media and the communications team in Education to maximize our reach
 - Also consider how to work within schools so as to reach all potential animal owners / keepers
 - Consider the HCC Food seminars focusing on where the food comes from and responsible ownership
11. It was agreed a meeting should be convened with the task of developing this element going forward.

Action point 5 > Secretariat to agree invitees with the WAHWFG members and arrange a meeting to consider stakeholder/young people workshops.

Agenda Item 6: Update and discussion with Peter Jinman (Chair) Farm Animal Welfare Committee

12. The Chair welcomed Peter Jinman, Chair of the Farm Animal Welfare Committee (FAWC). He provided an introduction on the role of FAWC, its make up and recent and current projects. The Chair thanked Peter for his interesting presentation.
13. FAWC is an advisory committee to Government reporting to all GB administration and Northern Ireland in relation to animal welfare at time of killing.
14. Peter advised there are currently 12 independent members of FAWC, but that a moratorium on recruitment is to be lifted shortly and they are keen to recruit additional members especially with small ruminant experience. It is an open selection process with the appointment panel being run by Defra and the Group was invited to consider potential applicants from Wales.
15. Peter was provided with the ongoing priorities of the Framework Group as set out in the 2017/2018 Implementation Plan and it was agreed they would maintain contact ongoing.

Action point 6 > Secretariat to provide Peter Jinman with a link to the 2017/2018 Implementation Plan

Action point 7 > Secretariat to confirm the FAWC appointment process and inform members of the WAHWFG. All to consider potential applicants from Wales for FAWC

LUNCH

Agenda Item 7: Update and discussion with Nic De Brauwere (stand in Chair) Animal Welfare Network Wales (AWNW)

16. The Chair welcomed Nic De Brauwere (standing in Chair) from Animal Welfare Network Wales (AWNW). Nic De Brauwere explained the AWWN priorities have been reviewed this year and the Group are now working on:

- Responsible pet ownership roadshow
- Pets for sale online
- Sanctuaries Code of Practice

17. The Chair thanked Peter for his interesting presentation and it was agreed the Framework Group should maintain contact to engage with the AWWN, through sharing information and attending meetings.

Agenda Item 8: Discussion on way forward following on from earlier discussions with FAWC and AWWN

18. As this item was discussed as part of the previous agenda, the group moved on to the next item.

Agenda Item 9. Update and discussion on the impact of Brexit on animal health and welfare

19. The Chair welcomed Tony Jermyn to the meeting who provided an update on the work of the EU AH Law and the implications of Brexit.

20. GW provided an update on the OCVO Brexit work and the engagement to date.

21. MJ expressed concerns about the UK position on the emerging EU AH Law and still felt uncertain on how this was being taken forward. He specifically raised the issue about mirroring EU rules after EU withdrawal, and how that might affect WTO rules. He suggested he would be raising his concerns at the EU Roundtable Working Group.

22. The Chair thanked Tony and GW for their updates and requested that this becomes a standard agenda item for future meetings to ensure the Group is kept up to date.

Agenda Item 10. AOB

23. The following items were discussed under AOB:

CCTV at Slaughterhouses

The Chair advised he had received and provided a holding response to the British Veterinary Association letter relating to CCTV in slaughterhouses.

PC advised the Group that the Cabinet Secretary is considering a broad range of views from all sides of the debate, before evaluating the implications and deciding on further action by the end of this term.

Sheep Scab

The Group requested an update following the submission of the Sheep Scab Report to the Cabinet Secretary.

PC advised a response had been received and a copy would be circulated to the Group.

Action point 8 > Secretariat to provide a copy of the Sheep Scab response to the WAHWFG members.

TSE

PC advised the Group that a consultation on the consolidation and updating of the TSE regulations in Wales will be launched end of Sept. beginning of Oct. and encouraged the Group to consider and provide a response.

Action point 9 > Secretariat to provide WAHWFG members with a link to the TSE consultation when it goes live.

VMD RUMOR Report

GW advised the VMD had produced a report which he would like to the Group to consider and provide comments on urgently.

Action point 10 > GW to circulate copies of the VMD report to the Secretariat for onward circulation to the WAHWFG members.

Dairy Farmer magazine article 'teat sealing'

MJ circulated to the Group a copy of a dairy Farmer magazine article relating to teat sealing.

The Group agreed this was an abhorrent practice and they should write to the Association of Show Secretaries to request an update from them on what is being done to ensure this is being identified and reported at shows.

The Group also agreed to include other animal welfare concerns in their letter, including obese riders on small horses at shows.

Action point 11 > Secretariat to draft a letter to the Association of Show Secretaries liaising with WAHWFG to agree content of the letter.

CLOSE