

## TB Eradication Programme Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

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## Action Plans

### 1. Why have Action Plans been introduced?

Bespoke Individual Herd Action Plans are in place in herds which have been under restriction for 18 months or more. All persistent TB breakdowns are currently located in the Intermediate and High TB Areas.

Action plans contain a variety of measures aimed at clearing up TB infection and supporting these herds to become Officially TB Free.

By the end of December, 59 Action Plans had been implemented in persistent TB breakdowns and restrictions have been removed from 21 herds which had Action Plans in place.

## Biosecurity

### 2. Why should I implement biosecurity measures on my farm?

Biosecurity is the way farmers and owners of farm animals can reduce the risk of disease. It is essential to reduce disease spread, particularly of highly infectious diseases such as Foot and Mouth disease.

Every farm, without exception, whether it has suffered a TB breakdown or not, should always adopt good biosecurity and husbandry practices. Biosecurity is key in preventing and mitigating against the risk of bovine TB and other serious animal diseases entering a herd.

There are practical measures every farmer can take to prevent the introduction of disease to maintain and improve the health of their herd by applying appropriate biosecurity measures.

### 3. How do biosecurity improvements work in practice when fields are not truly biosecure?

Biosecurity is about reducing the opportunities for a disease to enter a herd. Recent research evidence shows that badgers tend to avoid pastures when cattle are grazing in them, suggesting that transmission of TB from badgers to cattle at pasture is more likely through indirect means than through close contact between the two species.

*Mycobacterium bovis* (*M.bovis*), the causative organism of TB, can be found in the urine, or faeces of some TB infected badgers. Transmission of TB can occur through the ingestion of the organism, but not as readily as through the inhalation of airborne droplets. The extent to which the contamination of pasture, by excretions from badgers, plays a significant role in the transmission of TB to cattle is unknown. High risk points of indirect contact between badgers and cattle are considered to be feed and water troughs, mineral licks and badger setts and latrines on field boundary edges.

There are common sense, precautionary measures that cattle farmers can take to reduce the likelihood of TB transmission from badgers to cattle at these locations. Badger setts and latrines on field boundaries, can be fenced off from inquisitive cattle and badgers, which can be prevented from accessing feed and water troughs, through raising their height and ensuring sheer sides sloping outwards to the trough rim edge.

Research has shown that some badgers will visit farm buildings and come into close contact with housed cattle. There are a number of effective precautions that can be taken to prevent badgers accessing cattle housing and feed stores.

## Cattle vaccination

### **4. When will a cattle vaccine be available?**

To use any cattle vaccine, we must be able to show the difference between cattle that have been vaccinated and those that are infected. We have been working on a test for this (a DIVA test) for a number of years, and our focus now is to assess the specificity of this test, to see how often it generates false positive results. Further work on developing a cattle vaccine, will depend on the results of this assessment. A very optimistic assessment estimates that vaccine could be available by 2023.

## Cymorth TB

### 5. What is Cymorth TB?

The aim of Cymorth TB is to provide support and advice to farmers whose cattle have TB. This is to:

- Minimise the impact of the disease on their farm
- Prevent the disease from spreading

*The Veterinary Programme* - Private vets play a pivotal role in ensuring the health and welfare of animals in Wales. Through Cymorth TB we are seeking to enhance the role for private vets in the management of TB. The veterinary programme allows farmers and herd keepers affected by TB, access to a specialist visit by a specifically trained private vet.

The programme is managed by the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) and delivered by private vets, subcontracted to the two Welsh Veterinary Delivery Partners. Farmers are offered access to the programme in the form of a voucher which will be provided to them by APHA.

### 6. Who is eligible for a Cymorth TB visit?

Cymorth TB visits are offered to keepers of herds which have either failed a TB test (Annual, PrMT etc) or in the ITBAN (see above) have passed a Contiguous (CON, CON6) test. The Welsh Government is considering in what other circumstances, and following what trigger's, Cymorth TB visits may be offered in the future

### 7. How can I get a Cymorth TB visit?

To make accessing support easier, visits will be automatically scheduled for eligible herds. But the veterinary programme is not compulsory, so the herd keeper may choose to opt out.

The visit is carried out on a voluntary basis and is designed to benefit the farmer, enhancing their understanding of the disease, the management process, and working relationship with their private vet.

### 8. How much does a Cymorth TB visit cost?

The cost of the 3 hour Cymorth TB visit is paid for by the Welsh Government.

## EU Funding

### **9. Will the programme receive EU funding after Brexit?**

Our Eradication Programme is reviewed on an annual basis as part of the submission of the UK TB Eradication Plan to the European Commission (EC) and has received endorsement by the EC for nine years running.

Between 2010 and 2017, the Welsh Government has received £26.49m in EU funding. Funding for 2018 will be received in December 2019.

It is unclear at this stage what the implications of Brexit will mean in terms of future funding. Following the UK's exit from the European Union, we must plan for losing co-financing from the Commission and the subsequent increased pressure on our budgets in the future.

## Finishing Units

### Exempt Finishing Units (EFUs)

#### 10. What are EFUs?

EFUs were able to receive cattle which have not had a Pre-Movement Test (PrMT), when a PrMT is required, but from an Officially TB Free (OTF) herd (although pre-movement tested cattle can enter the unit). Such cattle are referred to as TB Exempt cattle. Cattle were able to move direct to slaughter, or to slaughter via a dedicated slaughter collection, or a dedicated slaughter market.

Due to the high number of TB breakdowns occurring in EFUs in Wales, the risk to disease control they represented was considered to be no longer acceptable. Since 1 January 2018, all of the EFU approvals have been revoked.

### Approved Finishing Units (AFUs)

#### 11. What are AFUs?

AFUs are indoor units, with high levels of biosecurity, able to receive, under movement licence, cattle from TB restricted herds, TB Exempt cattle and other unrestricted cattle from OTF herds. Animals must have been tested in the previous 90 days (except calves under 42 days) before entering an AFU. TB restricted holdings must usually still have 2 Short Interval Tests remaining for cattle to be allowed to move to an AFU. Cattle can only be normally moved from an AFU, under licence, directly to slaughter, or indirectly via an approved slaughter gathering.

The benefit of AFUs is that they allow an outlet, other than to slaughter, for TB restricted cattle, which helps facilitate lower stock numbers on TB restricted premises. AFUs are not allowed in the Low TB Area and are no longer allowed in Intermediate TB Areas.

### Licensed Finishing Units (Wales) (LFUs)

#### 12. What is an LFU (Wales)?

An LFU (Wales) is a unit approved by APHA to enable finishing cattle to be purchased into the Low TB Area, from the Intermediate and High TB Areas of Wales and the Edge and High Risk Areas of England and Northern Ireland, without the requirement of a PoMT. Cattle in LFUs (Wales) are resident indoors only and the cattle buildings require a minimum level of biosecurity protection from wildlife. The units are under continuous TB movement restrictions and can only sell under licence to slaughter, directly or indirectly, through a dedicated slaughter market (except when under TB breakdown testing). Cattle can be moved in under licence, even during the immediate period following a TB breakdown, unless a veterinary risk assessment concludes the risk is too high.



LFUs can also be approved in the Intermediate TB Areas.

### **13. Why is an LFU considered safer than an EFU?**

There is no PrMT exemption for cattle from the Intermediate and High TB Areas of Wales and the Low (where it applies to certain herds), Edge and High Risk Areas of England and Northern Ireland entering these LFUs (Wales). Instead of a PoMT for all cattle entering these units, routine surveillance will be carried out through 6 monthly testing. A PrMT is seen as an important means of identifying TB before an animal has moved, thereby providing additional protection to purchasers in the Low and the Intermediate TB Areas.

## Funding the Programme

### 14. Where is the funding coming from? Additional funds or transfer of funds from other sources/schemes?

There will be no increase to the TB Eradication Programme budget which will mean work will need to be prioritised on the basis of value for money and phased in as budgets and resources allow.

### 15. Does the £150m spent on compensation include the market value that is realised by WG when animals are sold?

Yes, Welsh Government receives the salvage value, based on the value of any meat that can be salvaged from animals slaughtered due to TB. The £150m spend on compensation covers a 10 year period. In addition to the cost of TB compensation, Welsh Government also pays for the haulage and slaughter of animals removed from farm, and also pays valuers' fees.

### 16. How much does WG receive in salvage?

The amount of salvage the Welsh Government receives depends on the number of animals slaughtered, and the amount of meat salvageable. Please see the table below that details the amount of salvage receipts that the Welsh Government received for the past 5 financial years.

Year	Salvage
2013/14	-£1,463,000
2014/15	-£2,521,000
2015/16	-£2,847,000
2016/17	£ 3,483,000
2017/18	-£4,111,000

### 17. What are the admin costs for this programme?

Administration costs are funded from programme delivery spend that includes policy making and delivery. It is therefore not possible to differentiate between administration and policy making/delivery costs.

## ibTB

### 18. What is ibTB?

ibTB is a website which provides farmers and other animal keepers with sufficient information for them to identify the location of all neighbouring herds infected with bovine TB. It also provides information on the disease history of the herd and therefore allows farmers to better understand the potential risk from brought-in undetected cattle by identifying when each herd last came off restrictions. The link to the ibTB website can be found at:

<https://www.ibtb.co.uk/>

## Informed Purchasing

### **19. What is Informed Purchasing?**

Farmers should always consider risk when purchasing cattle. Informed Purchasing Schemes have made a significant contribution to TB eradication in Australia and New Zealand.

We know, in some areas, the risk posed by cattle movements can be substantial. In the Low TB Area 80% of confirmed breakdowns can be primarily attributed to cattle movements. Even in the High TB Areas, around a third of confirmed breakdowns are the primarily result of cattle movements.

It is therefore vital farmers give consideration to where they source cattle from and their TB history.

### **20. How can I get information about the cattle I want to purchase?**

Farmers are advised to request this information either from the seller directly or at the market.

We established the grant to help livestock markets upgrade their facilities to allow TB information to be prominently displayed. Ten applications successfully received funding of up to 50% of the cost (up to a maximum of £2,500) of equipment, such as display boards/screens, and any new or update to back-office software. As part of the grant conditions, markets are required to ask for and, when provided, display the following three pieces of information:

- Date of the animal's last Pre-Movement Test
- Date of the seller's last routine herd test
- Date the herd achieved Officially TB Free (OTF) status.

### **21. Are you looking to make Informed Purchasing mandatory?**

Yes.

### **22. When will a mandatory Informed Purchasing scheme be introduced?**

This will be a longer term objective of the Wales TB Eradication Programme.

### **23. Risk based trading/Informed purchasing- is a farmer not entitled to client confidentiality under Data Protection laws?**

At present, the current Informed Purchasing scheme is voluntary, so farmers are not obliged to share information about the TB status when selling. However, so that purchasers can make informed decisions about the cattle they buy, the Welsh Government encourages this sharing of information.

## Intermediate TB Area North (ITBAN)

### **24. Why have additional measures been introduced in the ITBAN?**

The Intermediate TB Area North has been experiencing a significant increase in the number of new bovine TB incidents in the last two years. In 2018, there were 67 new incidents, which represents a 6% increase on the previous 12 months (63 incidents) and 86% increase on the number in 2016 (36 incidents). 2018 was the second highest year on record.

In response to this emerging disease situation additional controls have been implemented with the aim of curbing and reversing the epidemic in this area.

From November 2018, enhanced TB surveillance in herds which are contiguous to a TB breakdown was introduced in the Intermediate TB Area North.

To support farmers affected by this change, veterinary 'Keep it Out' visits are being offered. Farmers are encouraged to take advantage of this free visit to discuss what they can do to protect their herd from TB.

These measures are the first phase of interventions in the ITBAN; other measures to reduce TB incidence in the area are currently being considered.

## Joint working with Defra

### **25. Is Welsh Government working in partnership with other devolved administrations?**

Welsh Government is working closely with Defra to understand the dynamics of the TB problem in the border area (covering the ITBAN, and parts of Cheshire and Shropshire) and to agree and deliver a joint communications initiative aimed at advising stakeholders on reducing TB risks.

We will continue to work collaboratively, consulting widely with those outside Government such as the farmers, the veterinary profession and others within the agricultural industry, to develop and enhance approaches to the eradication of bovine TB in Wales.

## Management of TB02 Restriction Notices in herds being managed across multiple holdings

### 26. What is changing?

From 13<sup>th</sup> January 2020, the rules regarding the management of TB breakdown herds are changing for herd owners keeping cattle on multiple holdings, but where these holdings are all run as one business. A single restriction Notice Prohibiting the Movement of Bovine Animals (TB02) will no longer be used to place all of these separate holdings under the same TB restrictions. This means that unlicensed movements of cattle between the holdings will not be possible.

The changes are as follows:

(i.) At the start of a TB breakdown (or suspected TB breakdown), APHA will initially restrict, under separate TB02 Notices, all temporary and permanent holdings with different CPH numbers, which are associated with the same cattle business operation.

(ii.) Once all of the appropriate information is available, the APHA case vet will then usually automatically remove the TB restrictions on those holdings where:

- no cattle are currently kept, which are located more than 10 miles away from the main holding. However, if cattle have been kept on the holding, specific requirements to minimise the likelihood of the organism remaining in the environment need to be satisfied before movement restrictions are removed, but cattle will not be licensed to this premises and once removed TB restrictions will not be reapplied to facilitate movements; or where
- no suspicion of bovine TB has been identified on testing and there has been no movement of bovine animals onto the holding from holdings with suspicion of bovine TB in the 120 days prior to the disclosing /check skin test(s)

(iii.) If the above criteria are not satisfied, then the holding will remain under TB restrictions and undergo appropriate skin TB testing until either

- the end of the TB breakdown on all of the holdings associated with the breakdown; or
- until 2 clear skin TB tests have been completed:
  - i. The holding number (temporary or permanent) relating to specific land parcels must have been active since the beginning of the TB breakdown.
  - ii. The first clearing test must be at least 180 days (4 months+ 60 days) and the second test at least 240 days (4 months + 120 days) after the last move/licensed onto the premises; and

- iii. The first clearing test must be at least 60 and the second test at least 120 days after any animal removed for TB control purposes from any holding in the breakdown has left this holding. Restrictions will not be removed until the status is determined of all animals moved from the holding with unresolved status e.g. any IRs have been retested.
- iv. A written intention to remove restrictions early on a holding must be made to APHA, before the beginning of the clearing test period i.e. the period of 60 days before the first clearing test above. APHA will serve a Biosecurity Requirements Notice on the holding requiring the cleansing and disinfection of machinery and equipment, the prevention of movement of slurry and manure and the use of separate personal protective equipment between holdings.
- iv. Once a TB10 is issued for that holding, TB02 restrictions will not be reapplied, unless suspicion of disease is raised in further testing, or a slaughterhouse case.
- v. Short Interval testing is carried out as normal in the 4 month period since the last movement on.

Licensed movements between the holdings will not be considered until after the first Short Interval Test.



## **27. I have a test in xxxx. What can I do to reduce the impact of this change on my business?**

You are advised to ensure your cattle are located appropriately in advance of a TB test and bear in mind that if your herd should have a TB breakdown, there are implications on moving animals between holdings.

If you do wish to move cattle between holdings under your management you will need to apply to the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA), for a licence to do so. If these animals subsequently become TB reactors, they will be subject to 50% compensation reduction.

Helpful guidance and more information can be found at:

<http://www.tbhub.co.uk/guidance/planning-for-the-worst-and-hoping-for-the-best-how-can-i-reduce-the-impact-otb-breakdown-on-my-business/>

## **28. Why are you bringing this change in?**

The aim of the approach, is to reduce the number of cattle movements in a TB breakdown situation and to prevent the movement of restricted animals to cattle locations where no disease has been detected, or that are geographically distant from the main location. If farmers still wish to take that risk, where the movement is allowed, then the cost of taking that risk will be shared with the cattle keepers.

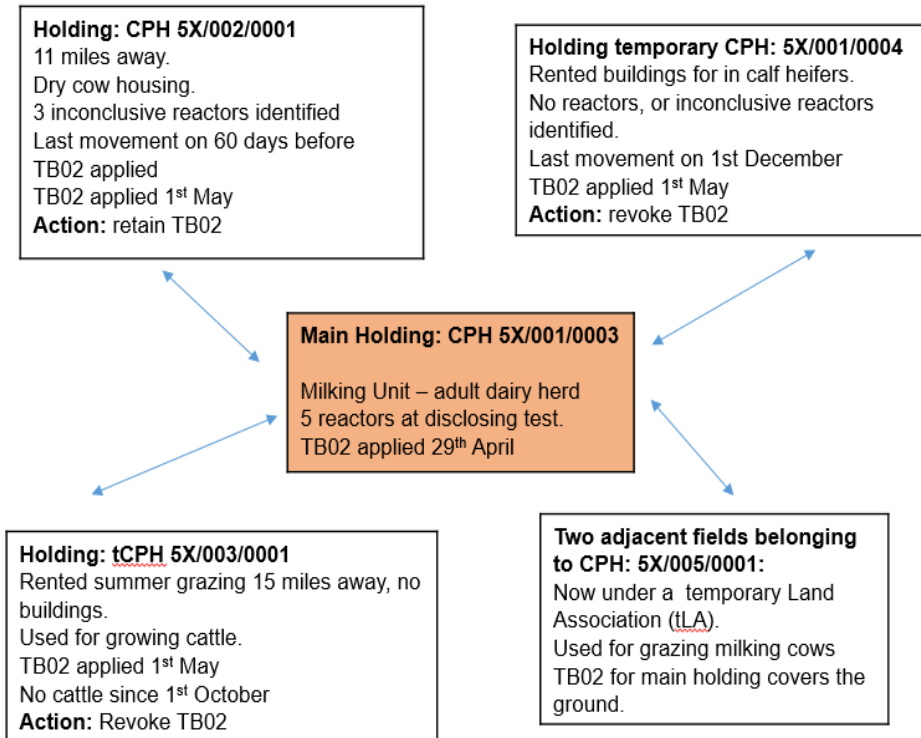
## **29. What if my herd is already under movement restrictions because of TB?**

If your herd is currently in a TB breakdown situation, you will have 3 months to organise the location of your cattle, before separate TB02 restriction notices are applied.

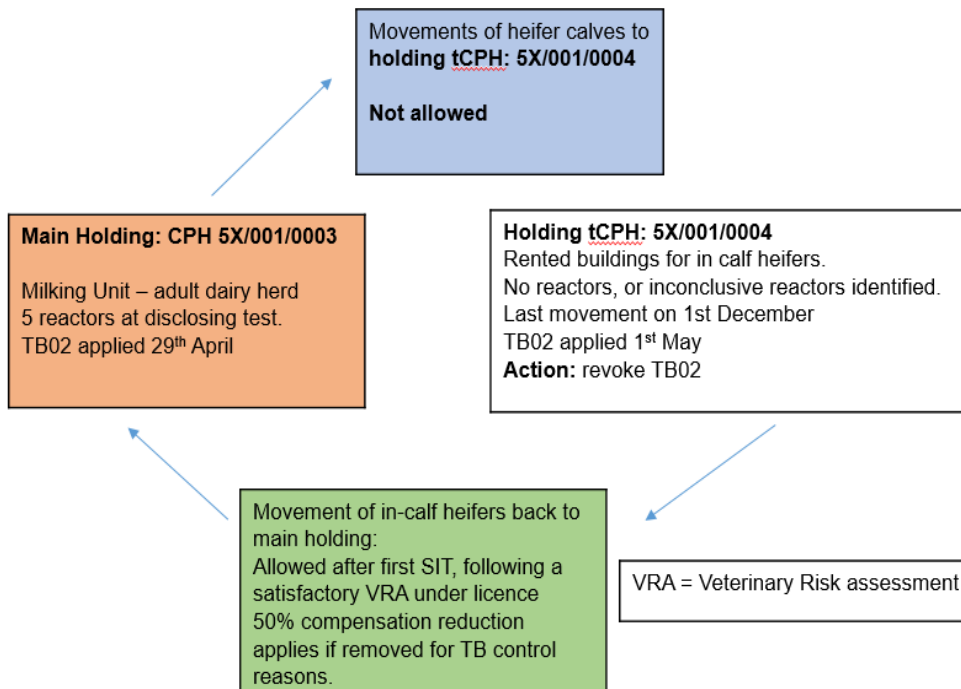
APHA will be writing to herd owners which have an ongoing TB breakdown, with guidance.

Practical examples of how the changes relating to the management of TB breakdown herds, across multiple holdings, will work are set out below:

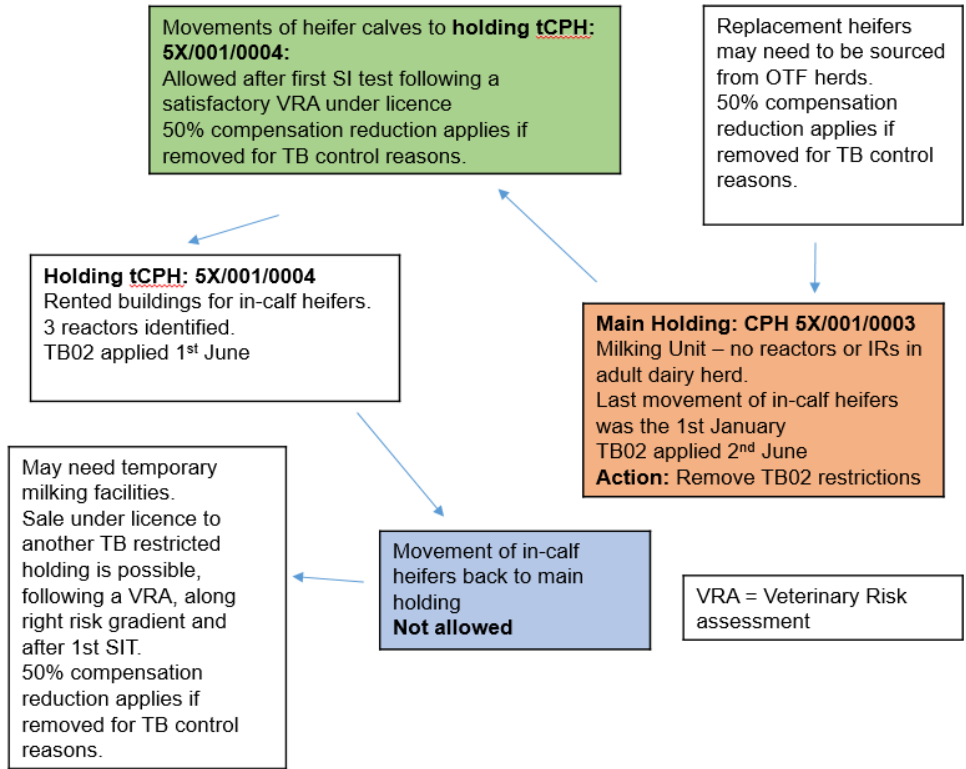
**SCENARIO 1 – DAIRY HERD WITH MULTIPLE LAND PARCELS**



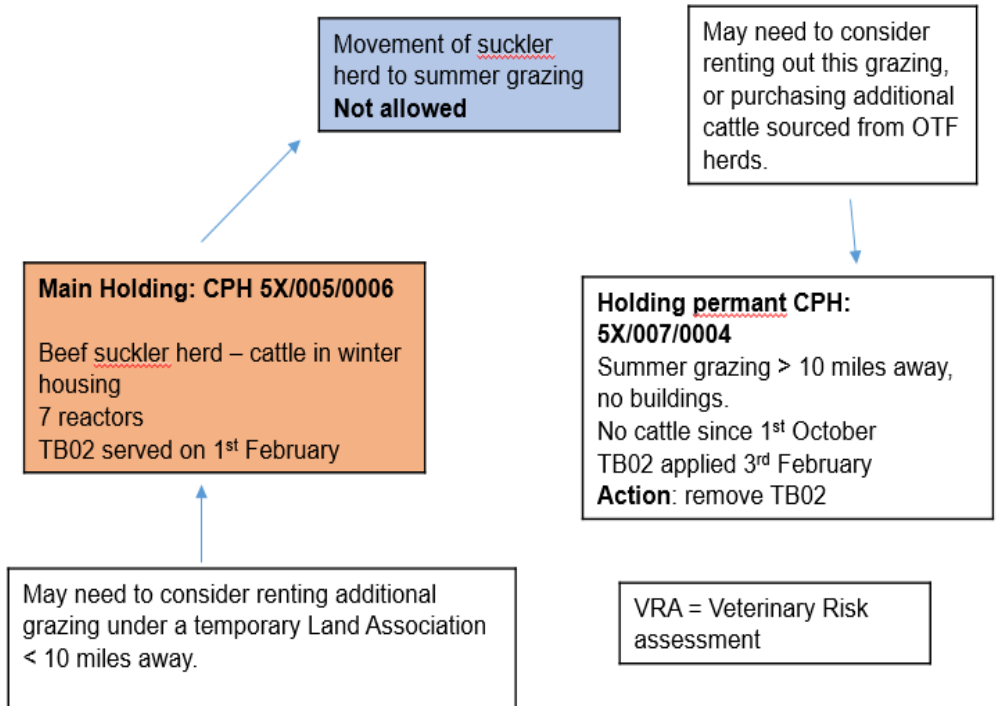
**SCENARIO 2 – MAIN HOLDING ONLY REMAINS RESTRICTED**



### SCENARIO 3 – HEIFER REARING ONLY REMAINS RESTRICTED



### SCENARIO 4 – SUCKLER HERD WITH SUMMER GRAZING



If you require further information relating to this issue, the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) can be contacted on: 0300 303 8268.

## Non bovines – camelids, goats and deer

### **30. What measures have been put in place to deal with TB in non bovines?**

The TB Programme aims to tackle all sources of infection, including from domestic, non-bovine animals such as South American camelids (e.g. llamas and alpacas), goats and deer.

These non-bovine animals, as well as other susceptible species, are believed to have only a minor role in the epidemiology of bovine TB.

We have sufficient powers to deal effectively and quickly with incidents of TB in certain non-bovine animals (camelids, goats and deer) similar to those available in relation to cattle. We keep this under regular review.

## On farm slaughter of reactors

### 31. How many TB reactors do you slaughter on farm?

In many cases, on farm slaughter is unavoidable if cattle cannot be transported to an abattoir, or if they are unfit for human consumption. There are a number of reasons why cattle are slaughtered on farm as opposed to in an abattoir. The following table sets out the figures for 2018:

Reason for on-farm slaughter	Number of cattle slaughtered on farm in 2018
<b>Calving</b> (heavily in calf/ calved within last week)	260
<b>Abattoir capacity</b>	1
Cattle have been <b>medicated</b> and are due to be slaughtered within withdrawal period	445
Cattle have no <b>passport</b>	44
<b>Welfare</b> reasons (such as injury)	105
<b>Dirty</b>	33
<b>Unknown</b>	2
<b>Total slaughtered on farm in 2018</b>	<b>890</b>

### 32. Should I medicate my cattle at the TB test?

Only if the medication is essential. Cattle which have been medicated cannot go into the food chain so therefore cannot be slaughtered in an abattoir.

## On line resources

**33. Please see included below are a number of links to sites which may be useful:**

1. Welsh Government  
<https://gov.wales/bovine-tb>

2. ibTB  
<https://www.ibtb.co.uk/>

3. Farming Connect  
<https://businesswales.gov.wales/farmingconnect/>

4. Tir Dewi  
<http://www.tirdewi.co.uk/en/our-background/>

5. RABI  
<https://rabi.org.uk/>

6. Farming Connect  
<https://businesswales.gov.wales/farmingconnect/>

7. APHA  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/animal-and-plant-health-agency>

8. RPW  
<https://beta.gov.wales/rural-payments-wales-rpw-online>

9. TB HUB  
<http://www.tbhub.co.uk/>

10. BCMS  
<https://www.gov.uk/cattle-tracing-online>

11. Menter a Busnes  
<https://www.menterabusnes.co.uk/en>

12. Iechyd Da

<http://www.iechydda.cymru/index.php/>

13. Welsh Lamb and Beef Producers

<http://www.wlbp.co.uk/index.php/en/>

14. Hybu Cig Cymru

<http://www.wlbp.co.uk/index.php/en/>



## Persistent herd breakdowns

### 34. What is a chronic herd breakdown?

The Welsh Government's definition of a chronic herd breakdown, is a cattle herd that has had its Officially TB Free Status Withdrawn (OTFW) and:

- Has been OTFW for a duration of 18 months or more (i.e. a persistent breakdown); OR
- Became OTFW at or before the 12 month check test, following an earlier OTFW breakdown (i.e. a recurrent breakdown), but excluding recurrent breakdowns, where all reactors are animals brought in since the close of the previous incident, unless subsequent molecular typing information does not support a purchased origin.

It should be noted that persistent TB breakdowns are being focussed on in the first instance.

### 35. How will I know if my herd is a persistent / recurrent / chronic herd breakdown?

APHA will be in contact with farmers who have had a TB breakdown lasting 18 months or longer (i.e. a persistent breakdown) and some farmers who have a recurrent TB breakdown to, either discuss Individual Herd Action Plans, or to arrange for a targeted herd Interferon-gamma test.

### 36. How many persistent TB breakdowns are there?

At any one time there may be 90-100 persistent herd breakdowns in Wales. The number has increased since the introduction of Action Plans into persistent herd breakdowns. This is because the aim of the policy is not to remove TB restrictions, until there is more surety that infected animals are not still present in the herd. This is extending the length of these breakdowns, but reducing the likelihood of infected animals being freely traded on the market and of them remaining in the herd to potentially infect other animals.

### 37. What are Action Plans and when are they applied?

There are a variety of initiatives which have been taken forward in chronic herd breakdowns in Wales, focussing initially on persistent breakdowns. APHA case vets are drafting Individual Herd Action Plans for all persistent herd breakdowns. These will be shown to the farmer, their private vet (providing the farmer requests their involvement) and the farmer/vet will be asked to comment on them. All persistent TB breakdowns are currently located in the Intermediate and High TB Areas.

Individual Herd Action Plans contain a variety of measures aimed at clearing up TB infection and supporting these herds to become Officially TB Free. These Action Plans include the following measures applicable to all herds:

- Testing will be maintained at severe interpretation for the duration of the breakdown;

- All severe and standard IRs will be removed, until an exit position is reached;
- Exit position- when a clear test or only IRs at severe interpretation are identified at a test, these will have an Interferon-gamma test. If this test is clear, any IRs on severe interpretation will have an Interferon-gamma test;
- In dairy holdings and in some higher risk beef holdings, separate TB02 restrictions will be applied to all separate land parcels and buildings entirely outside a 3km zone centred on the map reference of the main premises. Compensation reduction of 50% will apply to certain high risk moves, if an animal is subsequently removed for TB control purposes. Moves of beef animals back to a main dairy unit will be discouraged. For very large herds with several dairy milking facilities, moves of adult cows between the units will generally not be allowed.
- A separate TB02 will be applied to all holdings under a separate holding number and all movements between, under licence and following a veterinary risk assessment, will involve 50% compensation reduction for any animals subsequently becoming reactors..
- The following factors will be assessed and measured depending on findings:
- biosecurity at high risk points of contact between different cattle herds and cattle and wildlife , both for pasture and buildings;
- Cleansing and disinfection of cattle feed troughs, water tanks, equipment (where applicable) and buildings;
- Levels of badger activity on the holding, or boundaries, including active setts, latrines and runs. Findings of the Badger Found Dead Survey. Each holding will be given a likelihood and priority score.

The farmer is usually given three months to address any biosecurity issues and if significant progress has not been made, then a Biosecurity Requirements Notice (BRNs) will be issued, with a completion date. Non-compliance with a BRNs may lead eventually to compensation reductions of up to 95% of the market value of the animal in the event of the removal for TB control purposes.

- For persistent herd breakdowns, the clearing test which leads to the removal of TB movement restrictions on a herd cannot be used as a pre-movement test (meaning that cattle, over 42 days, need a further clear test before being able to be moved off the premises, other than to slaughter);
- Action Plans are reviewed annually and will be re-applied in herds which have had an existing Action Plan and then have a new TB breakdown at or before a herd test 6 months after a breakdown ends.

## Clearing test

### **38. Is the clearing test the same as the whole herd test?**

No. The clearing TB test is a test which is used at the end of a breakdown to determine if a herd can be released from TB restrictions. The whole herd test is a routine surveillance test which herds have once a year.

### **39. I'm in the high TB area and I don't have TB. Will I require an additional two tests, after my breakdown has ended, before I'm allowed to move my animals?**

No. The requirement for an additional test is only in circumstances where a herd has been under restrictions for 18 months or longer. In those cases a herd will have to wait a further 60 days and complete a Pre-Movement Test before they can move or sell those animals.

### **40. In persistent herd breakdowns, how long after the clearing test can PrMT take place to allow movements?**

60 days from the date of injection (day one of the test). In the interim, the herd restrictions will be lifted to permit restocking or the sale of calves under 42 days.

This policy only applies to persistent herd breakdowns at present, however it will be rolled out to apply to recurrent herd breakdowns in the near future.

### **41. What is the evidence behind this policy?**

We know that there are high levels of TB recurrence in Wales. These are TB breakdowns that have restrictions lifted, but because there may be residual infection in the herd, the herd has another TB breakdown.

The 2 year recurrence rate in Q4, 2018, for incidents closed in Q4, 2016 varies across the regions:

- Low: 29%
- Intermediate (mid): 28%
- Intermediate (north): 29%
- High (west): 39%
- High (east): 25%

Figures also vary on a quarterly basis.

Recurrence of disease may be due to the introduction of new infection through the purchase of infected animals or infected wildlife sources, or because infected cattle remained in the herd when TB restrictions were lifted.

Evidence supporting high levels of residual infection being a major cause of this issue in persistent herds comes from consideration of case histories where high numbers of reactors at a test 6 months after restrictions have been removed are routine identified, which have histories of severe or standard inconclusive reactor (IR) responses to the skin TB Test, or a positive response to the injection of bovine

tuberculin on multiple occasions, sometimes dating back years and through several breakdowns.

## Compensation reduction for within herd movements in persistent herd breakdowns

### 42. What do I need to know?

During the drafting of Action Plans for persistent herds, outlying buildings and parcels of land are assessed and separate TB02 movement restrictions are applied as required.

- Separate movement restrictions are applied to all premises with different holding numbers

Within the same holding, separate movement restrictions are applied for all dairy holdings (and some higher risk beef holdings) to all separate land parcels and buildings outside a 3km zone, centred on the map reference of the main premises.

Compensation is reduced to 50% for certain higher risk cattle movements between units within the same holding for animals subsequently removed for TB control reasons. Automatic compensation reduction is applied for movements between separate holdings (with a different holding number) for animals subsequently removed for TB control reasons.

The aim of the policy is to disincentivise movements which may increase the likelihood of disease persisting.

Where separate movement restrictions have been applied to premises within the same holding number, all movements of cattle, to and from the main milking location, must then take place under a licence. Movements away from the milking location will usually be under a general licence and will not attract any compensation reduction. Movements of beef animals back to the main milking unit will be discouraged and if allowed, will be under a specific movement licence and lead to a 50% compensation reduction for the moved animals, which are removed for TB control reasons at any stage during the remaining term of the breakdown. Movements back to the main milking unit of dairy animals, will be subject to a veterinary risk assessment and where the risk is above low and the movement is allowed, will be subject to a 50% compensation reduction, if those moved animals are removed for TB control reasons, during the remaining term of the breakdown. For large herds with more than one milking location, the milking locations will have separate TB02 notices applied and movements between the separate herds will usually be prevented.

- Herds that have been under restriction for between 12-18 months will receive letters from APHA inform them of the consequences of becoming a persistent TB breakdown.

#### **43. Why has this been brought in?**

This is consistent with our policy for only paying 50% compensation for animals moved into an infected herd, which includes movements back to the main holding from heifer rearers.

While a herd is under TB restrictions, it is possible for farmers to move cattle to other sites included in their holding, or another holding under their control. This potentially presents a significant risk of disease spread as it enables continual movement between separate units with potentially different levels of risk and subsequent mixing of sub-populations of cattle, each with its own level of risk assessment associated with it. This is likely to perpetuate the problems of disease circulation within the herd.

The management of herds over multiple sites and with mixed operations e.g. dairy and beef fattening, is a common feature of hers which have been under restrictions for a lengthy period of time.

26% of herds over 500 animals, whereas only 4% of herds between 100 and 200 animals became persistent over a 5 year period. Herd size is a significant factor in persistence of disease.

Land and buildings outside the 3km zone are considered far enough away from the main premises to be considered at a potentially different TB risk to the main premises.

This means that farmers in long-term breakdowns are now sharing the financial risk of movements if they are economically necessary to the business.

#### **Inconclusive reactors in persistent herd breakdowns**

#### **44. What happens to Inconclusive Reactors (IRs) in persistent herd breakdowns?**

- All cattle testing inconclusive at standard interpretation of the skin test are removed as reactors.
- Cattle testing inconclusive at severe interpretation of the skin test will be subject to both a gamma interferon blood test and an antibody test (IDEXX).
- This policy will be fully in place by February 2020. For most herds during January 2020, severe IRs will only be tested using the gamma test, unless there are large numbers of severe IRs identified at a single Short Interval Test (SIT), when an antibody test of those animals may also be scheduled by the case vet.

#### **45. When is the exit position reached?**

- The exit position is reached when there is a clear test or there are only cattle testing inconclusive at severe interpretation remaining, at which point:

- severe interpretation IRs will be gamma interferon tested only.
- If all of the severe interpretation IRs test clear at the final clearing test, the testing regime will return to standard interpretation and the herd will be released from restrictions.
- If any of the group of severe testing IRs test positive at the gamma interferon test, the remaining severe testing IRs in the group, which are negative to the gamma interferon test will need to be tested with an IDEXX antibody test and have a negative result.
- Two clear Short Interval Tests at severe interpretation are needed following the removal of any skin test reactor, IR, Direct Contacts, gamma test positive, or antibody test positive animal, before movement restrictions can be withdrawn.

#### **46. What is the evidence for the revised policy?**

Analysis has been performed on TB testing data from the 10 most persistent TB breakdowns in Wales between 2010 and 2015. This analysis showed that a high number of standard and severe interpretation Inconclusive Reactors became reactors at further testing.

#### **47. Why has the policy changed?**

We are continuously learning from the situation on the ground and our TB Eradication Programme is designed to react flexibly to such changes.

Now that the IDEXX Antibody test has become a 'relevant' test in Wales, meaning that it has been fully approved under the legislation for official testing, this has provided additional options for testing higher risk animals and to review the existing policy of slaughtering all IRs in persistent TB breakdowns. This review has resulted in the new policy going forwards.

#### **48. What is the IDEXX Antibody test and how will this new test enhance the existing regime?**

The IDEXX Antibody test is fully validated with the World Organisation for Animal Health (the OIE). It has now been used over a thousand times in Wales in higher risk animals with satisfactory results.

Our current understanding is that once an animal is infected with TB and has generated an immune response to the organism (*M.bovis*), it is then considered to be infected for the rest of its life. The animal's immune response to the presence of this organism may at different times be either a cell-mediated immune response, or an antibody mediated response, or both. The aim of the skin and gamma interferon tests is to detect a cell mediated response, whereas the aim of the IDEXX Antibody test is to detect an antibody response.

The quoted specificities and sensitivities of this test compared with the other official tests for bovine TB are:

	<b>Sensitivity</b>	<b>Specificity</b>
<b>Skin test at standard</b>	81 [77.3-84.7]	99.98 [99.9-100]
<b>Skin test at severe</b>	85	99.91
<b>Gamma test</b>	90.0 [87.2-92.8]	96.5 [95.3-97.7]
<b>IDEXX Antibody test</b>	64.6 [59.7-69.5]	98 [97.5-98.4]

The results of deploying the IDEXX Antibody test in higher risk animals in persistent TB breakdowns in Wales over a 20 month period compared with the gamma interferon test are:

<b>Testing by APHA in Wales between Jan 18-Aug 19</b>	<b>Numbers tested</b>	<b>No. of positives</b>	<b>% positivity</b>
<b>Gamma test in persistent breakdowns</b>	45902	2240	4.9%
<b>IDEXX Antibody test</b>	3614	260	7.2%

The IDEXX Antibody test must be carried out 10-30 days post TT1 (date of the tuberculin injection) of the skin test, because the skin test boosts the antibody responses to a detectable level in those animals exhibiting a response to M.bovis infection.

Specificity means the probability that the test will be negative in animals that DO NOT have the infection. It can be considered as a measure of the false-positivity rate e.g. a specificity of 99.98% means 1 in 5000 animals are likely to be false positives.

Sensitivity means the probability that the test is positive when used in INFECTED animals. It can be considered as a measure of the proportion of infected animals identified e.g. a sensitivity of 80% means that 8 out of 10 infected animals are likely to be correctly identified and 2 out of 10 are likely to remain undetected.

#### **49. What if the severe IRs become gamma positive or antibody positive?**

All severe Inconclusive Reactors (IRs) (when the exit strategy is **not** reached) are tested using a parallel gamma test and an antibody test. Any gamma positive or antibody test positive animal is removed for TB controls.

#### **50. Is it possible for severe IRs to be removed when they have passed a gamma test and an IDEXX Antibody test?**



The default position is that cattle, which are severe IRs on two consecutive (or non-consecutive) skin tests will receive a gamma test and an antibody test, after each skin test result.

APHA case vets do have the discretion to remove these animals as Direct Contacts (DCs), without applying additional blood testing. However, if an animal becomes a severe IR at a third consecutive test, then it will be automatically removed with compensation. DC removal will be considered by the APHA case vet on individual merit and not by default.

### **51. What if the gamma and the antibody test results do not agree?**

Animals with a positive result to any of the official tests are removed for TB control. The gamma test and antibody test identify animals showing different immunological responses to *M.bovis*, as the animal's response to the infection changes over time. We would expect few animals to be both positive to the gamma test and positive to the antibody test.

### **52. What if a persistent breakdown becomes Officially TB Free (OTF)?**

TB restrictions would be lifted and the releasing Short Interval Test (SIT) cannot be used as a pre-movement test. Any pre-movement test requires at least a 60 day interval from the latest skin test. This is not a change from the existing policy.

### **53. Does it mean that I could not sell cattle?**

You could not sell cattle that require a clear pre-movement test, before movement, but there are exemptions to the requirement to pre-movement test, for example, movements direct to slaughter, or a dedicated slaughter market, or animals which are under 42 days old.

## **Biosecurity Requirement Notices (BRNs)**

### **54. What are Biosecurity Requirement Notices?**

As part of the ongoing Action Plan process, BRNs are issued as necessary to persistent herd breakdowns, to improve biosecurity standards. Compensation will be reduced in cases of non-compliance. In cases of repeated non-compliance, the compensation may be 95% of market value for animals which become TB reactors later in the breakdown. This compensation reduction may, in certain circumstances be applicable to all animals in the herd.

### **55. Why have you introduced BRNs?**

Any deficiency in biosecurity in persistent herd breakdowns could be leading to the persistence of disease in the environment. It is therefore important that low standards of biosecurity are identified and addressed.

**56. What are the differences between Biosecurity Requirement Notice/Veterinary Improvement Notice/ Veterinary Requirement Notice?.**

Veterinary Requirement Notice (formally a Veterinary Improvement Notice (VIN)).- A Veterinary Requirement Notice requires a farmer to take specific actions to prevent the spread of TB.

Biosecurity Requirement Notice (BRN)- A Biosecurity Requirement Notice will be issued as necessary to persistent herd breakdowns. BRNs will state where biosecurity should be improved for the purpose of preventing the spread of TB but will allow the farmers to decide how to meet the objective(s) set out in the notice.

Comprehensive guidance on biosecurity standards will be provided to the farmers at their first DRF visit and, if they have not done so already, they will be encouraged to have a Cymorth TB visit. This will help the farmers identify at an early stage, any possible biosecurity weaknesses on the farm and allow them to familiarise themselves with the level of biosecurity required.

The farmer will be alerted to biosecurity deficiencies during the Action Plan consultation process and will be given time to correct these before service of a time-limited BRN, which will require actions to be completed by a set date and measures to be maintained. A BRN is a legal notice and failure to comply with the notice may lead to compensation reduction for animals which are removed for TB control reasons.

## Pre-Movement Testing (PrMT) and Post-Movement testing (PoMT)

### 57. What are the circumstances when I need to Pre-Movement Test (PrMT) and Post-Movement Test (PoMT) my cattle?

All cattle in Wales need to have a PrMT unless they are moving from or within the Low TB Area, the bovine animal is under 42 days, or the movement is subject to another legal exemption, one example of which is a movement direct to slaughter.

In the Low TB Area, certain high risk herds i.e. those herds which have recently had a TB breakdown and those subject to Contiguous Testing, will still need to PrMT, until they return to normal surveillance testing.

Cattle in Wales only need a PoMT when they are moved from an Intermediate TB Area or High TB Area in Wales (or from England's Edge Area, High Risk Area, or Northern Ireland) into the Low TB Area. The PoMT is only required for moves from a higher disease area into the Low TB Area (see the table below):

Move from	Move to	PrMT?	PoMT?
Low (Wales)	Low (Wales)	No	No
Intermediate (Wales)	Low (Wales)	Yes	Yes
High (Wales)	Low (Wales)	Yes	Yes
Low (England)	Low (Wales)	No	No
Edge (England)	Low (Wales)	Yes	Yes
High (England)	Low (Wales)	Yes	Yes
Scotland	Low (Wales)	No	No
Low (Wales)	Intermediate (Wales)	No	No
Intermediate (Wales)	Intermediate (Wales)	Yes	No
High (Wales)	Intermediate (Wales)	Yes	No
Low (England)	Intermediate (Wales)	No	No
Edge (England)	Intermediate (Wales)	Yes	No
High (England)	Intermediate (Wales)	Yes	No
Scotland	Intermediate (Wales)	No	No
Low (Wales)	High (Wales)	No	No
Intermediate (Wales)	High (Wales)	Yes	No
High (Wales)	High (Wales)	Yes	No
Low (England)	High (Wales)	No	No
Edge (England)	High (Wales)	Yes	No
High (England)	High (Wales)	Yes	No
Scotland	High (Wales)	No	No
Low (Wales)	Low (England)	No*	Yes
Intermediate (Wales)	Low (England)	Yes	Yes
High (Wales)	Low (England)	Yes	Yes
Low (Wales)	Edge (England)	No	No
Intermediate (Wales)	Edge (England)	Yes	No
High (Wales)	Edge (England)	Yes	No

Low (Wales)	High (England)	No	No
Intermediate (Wales)	High (England)	Yes	No
High (Wales)	High (England)	Yes	No
Low (Wales)	Scotland	Yes	Yes
Intermediate (Wales)	Scotland	Yes	Yes
High (Wales)	Scotland	Yes	Yes

\*some buyers in England's Low Risk Area, e.g. those operating Licensed Finishing Units (LFUs) may insist on cattle from the Low TB Area having a PrMT.

**58. Herds in Scotland can only accept cattle that have had a PrMT. How does this fit in with the Low TB Area PrMT exemption?**

Welsh cattle keepers must adhere to their country's rules on PrMT when moving cattle from their holding. However, if cattle from the Low TB Area are to be moved to Scotland, then a PrMT is needed because Scotland has a PrMT requirement for all cattle moving there from annually tested herds in Wales. Cattle keepers in the Low TB Area are still at liberty to Pre-Movement Test their cattle if they so wish.

**59. What are the testing requirements for cattle moving into England's Low Risk Area from the Low TB Area?**

There is no legal requirement for cattle moved into England's Low Risk Area to be Pre-Movement Tested. However, some buyers from the Low Risk Area, such as those operating Licensed Finishing Units (LFUs) may insist on it.

When moved to the Low Risk Area, all cattle originating from Wales will be required to have a Post-Movement Test.

**60. I have grazing rights and am adjacent to common land. After a CPH review, I have included the common land into my holding. Do I still need to PrMT when moving to and from the common?**

Yes, because TB breakdowns on common land can affect multiple herds. If TB testing is not practical while the cattle are on the common, movement back to the main holding may be allowed under licence issued by APHA, subject to conditions being met. These conditions may include that:

- a TB test must be undertaken as soon as possible and within 60 days after the movement back from the common, and
- the cattle must be kept separate from other bovine animal (and deer) on the holding until they have been tested, or
- the whole herd is tested every six months.

**61. I am in a Higher TB Area. In what circumstance will my animals be exempt from post movement testing (PoMT) if moved into a Low TB Area?**

From 1 October 2017, PoMT has been required for cattle moved in to the Low TB Area. There are some exemptions to this rule, including if the animal is moving from a herd which is a member of a CHeCS TB health scheme and the animal/ herd are classified as level 10. The CHeCS level 10 accreditation covers only cattle that were born on the holding, not bought in cattle. This is in recognition of the lower risk posed by those herds in an Intermediate or High TB Area, which have not had TB for ten or more years. We hope it will also increase participation in the TB health schemes.

It should be noted, the CHeCS programme differs from the statutory TB controls in several ways. For participating herds, it is recommended all added animals are placed in isolation upon arrival and additional Pre and Post-Movement Testing may also be required. The CHeCS testing requirements are not affected by this exemption.

More detail on the PoMT requirements is available on our website:  
[www.gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/ahw/disease/bovinetuberculosis/cattlecontrols/Postmovementtesting](http://www.gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/ahw/disease/bovinetuberculosis/cattlecontrols/Postmovementtesting)

**62. How do I arrange for my herd to be CHeCS accredited?**

If you are interested in joining CHeCS, discuss with your vet and contact one of the scheme providers:

HiHealth Herdcare: 01314 402628  
Premium Cattle Health Scheme: 01835 822456  
<http://www.cheecs.co.uk>

**63. Who will be responsible for paying for Post-Movement Testing?**

Like the PrMT, the PoMT is paid for privately by the farmer.

**64. I'm in a Low TB Area but I have bought cattle from a High TB Area. I need to Post-Movement Test the cattle I have bought. These animals have had a Pre-Movement Test and I can't Post-Movement Test until 60 days after they arrive on my farm. What if I want to sell these animals on again within that period?**

You will not be able to trade these animals, other than moving them to slaughter, a slaughter market, an Approved Finishing Unit, or a Licensed Finishing Unit (Wales), until you have had a PoMT 60-120 days after the movement. This is to ensure that the risk of onward disease spread within the Low TB Area, is kept to a minimum.

**65. I am in the Low TB Area and buy cattle at market. How will I know if the cattle I buy need a PoMT?**

Farmers are required to check the location the animal came from but additionally, APHA will be sending a monthly letter to farmers who appear to require Post Movement tests and APHA will be monitoring compliance. As a general rule, if an

animal had had a Pre-Movement Test, if it is moved into the Low TB Area, it will also need a Post-Movement Test. However, there are instances where the PrMT may have been undertaken, as part of a herd surveillance test, or the animal is under 42 days of age at the time of movement and exempt from a PrMT (but not from a PoMT).

**66. I am in the Low TB Area and sell cattle at market. If I bring my cattle home, should I test and isolate them?**

There are no requirements to test or isolate these animals if they are not sold at market and brought back to the herd. If you are concerned about any unsold cattle bringing disease back to your holding, you are free to isolate and test them (60 or more days after the last test) with APHA permission. However, a large proportion of cattle at markets will have been required to have a Pre-Movement Test and the relative duration of time cattle are present at the market is short so, while the risk is not negligible, there is likely to be a low risk of cattle contracting bovine TB at markets.

**67. Will cattle from Low TB /Low Risk Areas be penned in different areas of the market to those from higher risk areas?**

Although it is good practice for biosecurity reasons, there is no obligation for markets to separate cattle from different TB Areas. Due to the limited time cattle tend to spend at market, the disease transmission risks are deemed to be low (but not negligible).

**68. Does the PrMT exemption for calves under 42 days still apply?**

Calves under 42 days old (i.e. 41 days old or less) are not eligible for Pre-Movement Testing.

When calculating the date that a calf becomes eligible for Pre-Movement Testing, the date of birth of the calf is counted as day zero, the day after birth is day one and so on.

**69. Will I have to PoMT my calves if I buy them when younger than 42 days of age?**

Yes. In circumstances where a calf (under the age of 42 days) is sold from an Intermediate or High TB Area and moves to a holding in the Low TB area, then the purchaser is required to PoMT the calf. The purchaser will have a 60 day window to test the calf and will be notified via a letter from APHA. The animal cannot move from the holding until it has had a PoMT.

**70. Why do we need to PrMT as well as PoMT test?**

Despite the controls we have in place (including PrMT), it is not possible to fully eliminate the risk of TB spreading through cattle movements. Some of the reasons for this are:

- The sensitivity of the skin test is around 80%, which means only 80 out of 100 infected animals are likely to test positive at standard interpretation of the test;
- Cattle can become infected after being tested and before they are moved;
- Cattle may be at a very early stage of infection when tested and too soon for the test to detect disease;
- If the animal is infected with another disease, it can interfere with the test;
- TB is disseminated widely in the animal, which then mounts a different immune response, which results in it not being identified as a positive by the test.

The PoMT provides an opportunity to identify infected animals that may have moved into the Low TB Area undetected, at the earliest opportunity, minimising the likelihood of the disease going on to infect others.

**71. If a reactor is found at a Post-Movement Test, how will tracings be undertaken?**

If a reactor is identified at a PoMT, APHA will consider the need for additional testing in the herd of origin and of any other cattle sold from this herd, on a case by case basis.

**72. Why might I need to trace test an animal that has already received a PoMT with negative results?**

The purchase of TB infected cattle is one of the main causes of new TB breakdowns. Animals requiring a trace test are high risk, as they have originated from TB restricted premises, within the risk window, before TB was identified on the holding. In Wales, if any test has been completed less than 120 days since the animal moved from the breakdown holding, it must be retested when 120 days have elapsed (and at least 60 days from any previous test). This optimises our chances of identifying TB infected cattle as early as possible, minimising the likelihood of onward transmission of disease into resident animals and impact in the herd.

## Regionalisation

### 73. Why are you pursuing a regional approach to TB eradication?

The approach reflects the regional variations in the levels of the disease in Wales. The regional variations can be assessed, for any one period of time, by considering the numbers of new TB incidents, the numbers of existing TB incidents and the numbers of closed TB incidents. This is a commonly used principle, in other countries and for other diseases, to protect populations at risk from those populations that pose a greater risk.

### 74. How were the TB Areas drawn up?

The TB Areas are an indicator of the relative disease status across holdings in a defined area in Wales and are allocated to either a Low, Intermediate, or High status. The TB Areas are an amalgamation of spatial units, made up of parishes, created using a similar approach for establishing statistical units for the UK censuses. The spatial units are compatible with the CPH system and each contains a similar number of herds. This approach is not affected by local authority boundary changes and is flexible to change, to match the disease situation. Regular reviews will be made of the disease situation of the areas, and the spatial units.

### 75. How do I know in which TB Area my farm is located?

All cattle keepers were informed individually in 2017 of the TB Area (Low, Intermediate or High) in which their farm is located. If keepers have lost this communication they should contact APHA on 0300 303 8268.

In order to keep the changes simple, a farm can only be designated to one area. The areas are based on the location of the main farming unit to which the County Parish Holding (CPH) number is allocated, and therefore, **regardless of outlying pockets of land, a farm will only need to comply with the requirements of the area that their CPH number is linked to.** A map of the areas and further information can be found on the Welsh Government's website.

### 76. Is there a more detailed map available?

A detailed and interactive map is available at <http://lle.gov.wales/map/walestb>

A map of England's TB regions and testing requirements for those areas can be found here <http://www.tbhub.co.uk/guidance/testing-and-compensation/testing-areas/>

### 77. Can a CPH location be changed, because the farmer sees a commercial advantage in changing the TB Area?

There are specific criteria for what can be considered the Primary Production Location (PPL) which must be met in the following order of priority:



- The location of the livestock buildings / milking parlour / main handling facilities for animal health and welfare / husbandry purposes. In the majority of cases, this will be the same as the correspondence address.
- If no building / housing is present (i.e. in the case of an extensive holding), the PPL would be the gathering location.
- In the minority of cases, where the keeper occupies no enclosed land, only common grazing rights, the PPL is the correspondence address (Common land cannot be considered part of the PPL).
- Location of the greatest proportion of owned land / long term let.

Keepers transitioning their holding using Manage My CPH on RPW Online [https://beta.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-07/rpw-online-using-manage-my-cph\\_0.pdf](https://beta.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-07/rpw-online-using-manage-my-cph_0.pdf) , will be required to select the land parcel where their livestock buildings / milking parlour etc. are located, and can only select one of the other criteria if they do not have those facilities. If the land parcel selected as the centre point of the PPL is changed to be a location in a different parish to the CPH number (which could potentially mean a different TB Area), the request will be reviewed by RPW to ensure the selection of the PPL is in line with the above criteria.

## **78. Will the regional approach create a two-tier market?**

The approach is necessary to enable the implementation of specific measures:

- To protect regions, where levels of TB are low (the Low TB Area), from new incursions of disease, in particular from the movement of infected cattle from areas where disease levels are significantly higher;
- To protect regions where TB levels are at a medium level (the Intermediate TB Areas), in order to drive disease levels down to a low level.
- To target farms where disease levels are consistently high for long time periods, or are at high risk of long-term TB breakdowns. These are more prevalent in the High TB Areas.

Farmers are encouraged to share information on the area the animal has moved from at the point of sale. CHeCS TB health schemes will benefit farmers within a High TB Area who have not recently, or ever, had TB by having their low-risk status recognised. In the longer term, a mandatory system will make sure TB information is provided for every animal, allowing farmers to manage the risk.

## **79. How do I manage when I have land in different TB areas?**

The general principle is that all the land included in the same CPH will be in the same TB area (even where this may currently cross area boundaries). Any land included under a different CPH will be subject to the relevant controls for movements between those CPHs, including if they are in different TB areas.

## **80. I am on the Welsh/English border do these rules apply to me?**

Yes, if you have a Welsh CPH. The new measures will not change the way our cross border farms are managed and if farms on the border have a Welsh CPH then they

will also need to comply with the measures. In cases where there is a cross border TB breakdown, APHA will manage that breakdown on a case by case basis.

**81. What if I take on summer grazing (April to the end of October) how will the regional approach affect me if the summer grazing land is in a different TB Area to the one that my main holding is in?**

If the summer grazing land is under the same CPH as the main holding (for example if under a Temporary Land Association (TLA)), the summer grazing land would be in the same TB Area as the main holding. For TB breakdown herds, a Veterinary Risk Assessment (VRA) will be completed by APHA to assess all of the potential TB risks associated with a proposed move to summer grazing.

The VRA will consider the relative TB risks posed by the area the move is to and then determine whether the move can be allowed, or not. In some cases, moves are permitted only if additional measures are taken to reduce the risks to an acceptable level. The position has, therefore, not changed.

**82. I move cattle for winter housing; the farm is in a different TB Area. What are the implications?**

With regard to winter housing, keepers would need to report movements to the CPH the animals are being moved to, so the region would be determined by the location of the winter housing CPH. In the case of TB breakdown herds, a VRA will be completed by APHA to assess all of the potential TB risks associated with a proposed move to winter housing. It will include the relative TB risks posed by the local area the move is proposed to and then decide whether the move can be allowed, or not. It may be that there are additional mitigation measures that can be used to reduce the risks to an acceptable level. The position, therefore, has not changed.

**83. How and when might the geographical zones be altered and how much notice will be given?**

The disease situation of the areas, and the spatial units that make, will be reviewed and changes will be made when it is appropriate to do so. An appropriate amount of lead in time will be given in advance of any changes being made.

**84. Will the parishes on the boundaries of the areas be the only ones considered to be reduced if the level of breakdowns reduces?**

The disease situation will be reviewed at the spatial unit level.

## Selling cattle at markets

### **85. Will markets in the High TB Areas be able to sell cattle from Low and Intermediate TB Areas as they do now?**

Yes. There will be no restrictions on where markets source their cattle from. The TB area markets are located in, will not affect the controls on the basis that they have to adhere to biosecurity standards, under the Animal Gatherings Order, which reduce the risk of disease spreading locally.

### **86. I am in the Low TB area. If I take my animals to a market in a higher TB area will I have to PoMT that animal if I bring it back to my farm?**

Markets will be designated as neutral areas which means there will be no restrictions on where farmers in different areas can take their animals to sell or buy. If a farmer from the Low TB area takes an animal to a market in the Intermediate or High TB area and does not sell that animal, they will be able to take the animal back to their holding without a post movement test (PoMT). The requirement for PoMT is based solely on the location of the farm and not the location of the market.

### **87. Is there a duty on the vendor or auctioneer to declare an animal's history when sold from different risk areas?**

No. At present, vendors and auctioneers are not under a duty to inform purchasers of an animal's history when sold from different risk areas. However, through informed purchasing, we are encouraging vendors to provide TB information at the point of sale and some livestock markets have upgraded their facilities to allow TB information to be prominently displayed.

It is the Welsh Government's intention to introduce a mandatory system in the medium term and we would encourage vendors and auctioneer to prepare for this change.

### **88. I am in a High TB Area, will this new policy devalue my cattle?**

In the future, policies will increasingly focus on the benefits of purchasing from individual herds, that have never experienced a TB breakdown, even in High TB Areas. Some keepers, whose herds have not experienced a TB breakdown in the last 10 years may even now benefit from considering joining the CheCS scheme, as the requirement to PoMT, if they sell animals to the Low TB Area, will not apply to home-born animals from level 10 CHeCS herds.

### **89. If a farmer moves cattle from the Low TB Area of Wales and sells them in a market in England, do they need a PrMT?**

No. However some buyers in England e.g. those operating Licensed Finishing Units (LFUs) may insist on cattle being Pre-Movement Tested due to LFU conditions.

## Slurry

### **90. Is it possible for bovine TB to be transmitted through slurry from infected farms?**

*M. bovis* can be isolated from the faeces of some TB infected cattle. Transmission of TB can occur through the ingestion of the organism, but not as readily as through the inhalation of airborne droplets. There is a potential for TB to be spread from cattle to cattle and cattle to badgers through the application of slurry on pasture land, or land used for herbage. However, the extent to which slurry plays a significant role in TB transmission on an infected farm, or from an infected farm to other neighbouring farms is unknown. The production of aerosols during the mixing, pumping and application of slurry may pose a particularly high risk of transmission to cattle. Farmers should consider carefully, the potential risks posed not just by TB, but by other infectious organisms, such as *Salmonella* before deciding to import slurry onto their farm from another holding. Equipment used such as umbilical pipelines, which are not routinely cleansed and disinfected between farms, may pose additional risks.

### **91. How long can bovine TB remain in slurry?**

*M. bovis* can survive up to 6 months in stored slurry. Survival times of the organism are less in heaps of heated, low moisture content manure, of up to 30 days. Fields should not be grazed, or cut for silage for at least 60 days following the application of slurry, which has not been stored for 6 months.

### **92. Are procedures to negate the risk posed by slurry carried out and inspected?**

The potential risks posed by slurry/ manure on TB breakdown farms and the extent to which potential risks need to be further controlled, are currently under review by Welsh Government. Cattle keepers on restricted holdings are currently offered advice on storage and spreading best practice at an initial visit to assess the epidemiological origins of a TB breakdown and the risks posed are now re-assessed when a farm becomes persistently infected at 18 months, when further action may be required. The legislation does allow for a notice to be served on a keeper to require him/ her not to remove manure, slurry or other animal waste from the premises except under the authority of a licence issued by an inspector and this may be used in a particularly high risk situation.

## TB compensation

### **93. What is the compensation cap?**

The compensation cap is set at a maximum of £5,000 per animal.

### **94. How are cattle valued?**

In Wales, cattle are valued individually by professional valuers. These valuations are scrutinised on a monthly basis by a panel of Monitor Valuers and justification is sought from valuers when necessary. There are also automatic justification thresholds in place for commercial (£1,800) and pedigree cattle (£3,000).

### **95. Why is there a cap of £5,000 per animal?**

A cap on TB compensation of £5,000 per animal was introduced as part of the refreshed approach.

This cap protects the Welsh Government from the cost of compensation for the highest value cattle.

### **96. How much have you saved since you brought in the cap?**

Between October 2017 and February 2019, the total saved since the £5,000 cap was introduced is £49,500 for 28 animals.

### **97. Can I get insurance for my high value animals?**

We have been informed that although this is an immature market for providers, some insurance is available to cover any value which is in excess of £5,000. Owners of high value cattle should contact insurance companies to discuss potential cover.

## TB Dashboard

### 98. What is the TB Dashboard?

The Wales TB Dashboard presents data visually and charts the journey to TB eradication on a quarterly basis.

A link to the Welsh Government Dashboard can be found here:

<https://beta.gov.wales/bovine-tb-dashboard>

## TB Eradication Programme

### 99. What is the TB Eradication Programme?

The aim of the TB Eradication Programme is to carry out our long-term goal of eradicating bovine TB in Wales.

The Programme is based on four key principles, keep it out, find it fast, stop it spreading and stamp it out. In October 2017, a refreshed approach to TB Eradication was launched, which built on the existing comprehensive measures in place.

Two key documents were published. An overarching [Programme](#) document which sets out our foundations, our core values and the key policies forms the back bone of our programme, and a [Delivery Plan](#) which contains detailed measures and enhancements that are being adopted on an all-Wales and regional basis.

## TB Hub

### 100. What is the TB Hub?

The TB hub is a useful tool for farmers, vets and other advisers, to find practical advice on dealing with bovine TB on their farm, covering everything from biosecurity measure to understanding trading rules.

The link to the TB Hub website can be found at :

<http://www.tbhub.co.uk/>



## TB Statistics

### 101. What are the current disease trends?

Long term, there is a clear downward trend in the number of new TB incidents. For example, there was a 37% fall between 2009 and 2018.

To drive disease levels down further, we have refreshed the programme based on eight years of active surveillance data. Improved testing will help clear up infection and reduce the risk of disease spreading and breakdowns recurring.

TB statistics are published on a monthly basis at the following link:

<https://gov.wales/statistics-and-research>

## TB Targets

**102. For each region, what is the time-line to achieve a 'TB-free' status?**

### **TB eradication targets for Wales**

In December 2017, the then Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Planning and Rural Affairs set targets for eradication in each of the TB Areas. The national eradication target emerges on the basis of the regional targets being achieved. When all regions become Officially Tuberculosis Free (OTF), it follows that Wales will be OTF as a whole. If we achieve the targets that have been set, Wales will be OTF by 2041.

Further information can be found here:

<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-02/bovine-tb-eradication-targets.pdf>

## Testing

### TB Skin test

#### **103. To what degree is the skin test sound and 100% proven? Is anybody working on a more accurate TB testing system?**

Even though the intradermal skin test has been used in the national TB eradication programme since 1950, it is still recognised as the main screening test for TB across the EU and world-wide. It detects a cell-mediated immune response mounted by an animal to infection with TB. In the way it is used in the UK and Ireland, it can differentiate between animals infected with *M.bovis* from animals infected with other environmental mycobacteria.

Most infected cattle are detected through routine surveillance testing before they show any signs of illness. The skin test has a very high specificity, meaning that very few uninfected animals test positive. Recent research has shown that this may be as high as 99.98%, which equates to 1 false positive result per 5,000 uninfected animals tested. However, the sensitivity of the test i.e. the proportion of infected animals detected is reported as around 80% at standard interpretation. This may vary between 50% and 90%, depending on conditions. This means that in an infected herd, some infected animals may go undetected by the test.

However, none of the tests currently available (performed either before or after death) are 100% accurate in determining the TB status of an animal. This means, that in some cases, a combination of tests is required. More severe interpretation of the test, an Interferon- gamma test and an IDEXX Antibody Test are used in testing in chronic herd breakdowns or in explosive TB breakdowns to raise the sensitivity of the testing to assist in detecting infected animals.

Research workers are involved in developing other potential ancillary diagnostic tests including Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) methods, antibody tests and a phage test.

#### **104. My animal was culled as a reactor to the TB skin test, but at post mortem examination I was told lesions and culture results were negative, so it didn't have the disease, did it?**

We know the skin test is very specific from research work involving test results found in particular areas of low TB incidence. Recent research has shown that this may be as high as 99.98%, which equates to 1 false positive result per 5,000 uninfected animals tested and we also know, that post mortem examination cannot detect early microscopic lesions of TB, which may be present but are not visible to the naked eye.

Similarly culture of tissues, where lesions cannot be seen, is less successful than from tissues with lesions, as targeting of tissue to culture is more indiscriminate. An animal, with a post-mortem result, which is classed as "Non Visible Lesions" and is culture negative does not mean that the animal was not infected with TB. It means

we have failed to detect signs of TB in the carcass of the animal following a robust test result, indicating it was highly likely to have been infected with TB.

## Interferon - Gamma test

### 105. When is an Interferon - gamma test used?

The Interferon-gamma test is normally used in 'parallel' with the skin TB test to increase the likelihood of detecting infected animals and cannot be used to lift TB restrictions in a breakdown herd, or confer OTF status. In parallel means, if an animal tests positive to either test it is slaughtered.

Interferon -gamma testing is being used in the following situations in Wales:

- In all new TB breakdowns where the Officially Tuberculosis Free (OTF) status has been withdrawn (OTFW) in the Low and Intermediate North TB Areas;
- For any animal that gives an inconclusive result to two consecutive skin tests, where at least one of the tests is only an inconclusive reactor (IR) at severe interpretation;
- For case management, as a means of increasing test sensitivity, in parallel with the TB skin test;
- .In all persistent TB breakdown herds as part of the Individual Herd Action Plan;
- In all new breakdowns which are considered recurrent, following a breakdown and a skin TB test, up to 6 months after whole herd restrictions are removed.

## Relevant Tests

### 106. What is a “relevant test”?

A “relevant test” is a skin test, or any other diagnostic test approved by the Welsh Ministers for the diagnosis of bovine TB in cattle, or other bovidae. APHA can require a relevant test to be undertaken on a cattle farm by the service of a Test Notice. Any animal positive to a relevant test will be slaughtered and compensation will be paid to the keeper for the loss of that animal.

Only those tests, which have been validated and have been performed at least 1000 times on cattle in Wales, with satisfactory results will be considered for approval as a relevant test. All relevant blood tests in Wales can only be performed by APHA.

### **107. What is a validated test?**

A validated test is a test, whose test validation data has been accepted as meeting international standards by the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE). A validated test may be approved by the Welsh Government to be used by APHA, with a keeper's consent, providing APHA Scientific and the Welsh Government are satisfied that the test may offer benefits for official use over and above those provided by existing relevant tests. The keeper will need to agree in advance to the removal of test positive animals with compensation. An antibody blood test, the Enferplex Bovine Serum test, is an OIE validated test, but is not a relevant test in Wales. Other tests may seek OIE approval in the future.

### **108. Which TB tests are relevant tests in accordance with the TB (Wales) Order 2010 (as amended)?**

These are the Single Intradermal Cervical Comparative Test (SICCT, or 'TB skin test'), the only test under EU legislation which can be used to confer Officially TB Free status on a herd. The Interferon-gamma test and the IDEXX *M.bovis* Antibody Elisa test ("the IDEXX test") are both blood tests, which have been approved as relevant tests by the Welsh Government. These tests are used to supplement the skin test in identifying animals infected with bovine TB.

### **IDEXX Antibody test**

#### **109. What is the IDEXX Antibody test?**

The Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs, has given approval, for any TB test validated to OIE standards, to be considered by Welsh Government officials as "relevant tests", under Part 2 of the Tuberculosis (Wales) Order 2010 (as amended). Any animal giving rise to a positive reaction to the "relevant test" is to be considered a reactor and removed, with compensation being provided to the owner.

A "relevant test", is an OIE approved test, considered to be fit for purpose, after being performed at least 1000 times on cattle in Wales.

The IDEXX Antibody Test is being used in some chronic breakdown herds. It detects a different immune response elicited by an animal and is present when the organism is outside defence blood cells in which it shelters and hides.

### **Non-validated tests**

#### **110. What are non- validated tests?**

A non-validated test is a test, where the data to ensure that it is correctly identifying infected animals as infected and non-infected, has not been verified by international bodies, ensuring test standards are maintained.

The Welsh Government has agreed a protocol to allow non-validated tests to be used in Wales, under specific criteria, which have to be agreed by the keeper and their private veterinary surgeon. This enables the Welsh Government to authorise the use of a non-validated test, in order to enable an assessment of its performance in the live animal under field conditions, prior to test validation.

## Testing requirements for movements to and from Agricultural Shows

**111. Do cattle on holdings in Wales need a PrMT and/or PoMT if they are moving to an exempt agricultural Show (i.e. one that is less than 24 hours in duration and/or unhoused) and returning to their premises of origin?**

No.

**112. Do cattle on holdings need a PrMT and/or PoMT if they are moving to an exempt agricultural Show (i.e. one that is less than 24 hours in duration and/or unhoused), but not returning to their premises of origin?**

Yes. There is no PrMT and no PoMT exemption if not returning to the premises of origin.

**113. Can cattle, which have moved onto a holding in the Low TB Area and which require a PoMT, move off the holding to an exempt agricultural show, prior to a clear PoMT?**

No.

**114. Do cattle moving to a non-exempt Show (i.e. one that is longer than 24 hours in duration and/or is housed) need to be pre-movement tested?**

Cattle from the High TB Areas and Intermediate TB Areas **will** need a Pre-Movement Test before being moved to a non-exempt Show. Cattle from the Low TB Area will not need a Pre-Movement Test if moving to a non-exempt Show, unless:

- The Show has specified testing as a requirement (for example the Royal Welsh Show and Winter Fair), and/or
- The herd is either undergoing post TB breakdown testing or contiguous testing. In these cases, bovine animals of 42 days and over will need to be pre-movement tested before leaving the holding, until the herd returns to normal TB surveillance testing.

**115. What are the post-movement testing requirements for cattle returning, or moving to the Low TB Area from a non-exempt Agricultural Show?**

Cattle will need to be post-movement tested between 60-120 days after returning, or moving to the Low TB Area from a non-exempt show, located in the Intermediate or High TB Areas in Wales, Edge or High Risk Areas of England.

A general licence will enable cattle to move from a non-exempt show in the Low TB Area of Wales, without a post-movement test. The licence will require those cattle sold at a non-exempt show in the Low TB Area, which have originated from herds in the Intermediate, or High TB Areas of Wales, or the Edge, or High TB Area of

England to move to the Low TB Area, but will require a post-movement test. The conditions of the general licence can be found at:

<https://beta.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-04/bovine-tb-moving-cattle-from-a-non-exempt-show.pdf>.

**116. I am in the Low TB Area and I move my cattle to exempt and non-exempt Agricultural Shows across Wales (and England) during the show season. How do I manage testing?**

**A summary of key changes are as follows:**

\*PrMT is exempt, unless:

- The Show has specified testing as a requirement (for example the Royal Welsh Show and Winter Fair), and/or
- The herd is either undergoing post TB breakdown testing or contiguous testing. In these cases bovine animals of 42 days and over will need to be pre-movement tested before leaving the holding until the herd returns to normal TB surveillance

**117. When do my cattle need a post-movement test?**

	Show located in Low TB Area, Low Risk Area (England) or Scotland		Show located in Intermediate or High TB Areas, Edge or High Risk Area	
Movement from and back to premises of origin located in:	PrMT	PoMT	PrMT	PoMT
Low TB Area	No*	No	No*	Yes
Intermediate TB Areas	Yes	No	Yes	No
High TB Areas	Yes	No	Yes	No

Animals, which require a post-movement test following return from a non-exempt show to the Low TB Area will only be allowed to move off to exempt and non-exempt Shows during the season if they:

- have received a post-movement test with clear results; or
- move into a certified Quarantine Unit (QU), are licensed to move off before a post-movement test and remain in the Quarantine Unit (when not at a show) through the show season, until a final post-movement test has been completed with clear results. A post-movement test will be required at 60-120 days after the initial movement back from a non-exempt show located in the Intermediate, or High TB Area of Wales, or the Edge, or High TB Area of England to the Quarantine Unit. Bovine animals must be moved out of the QU immediately after satisfying the post- movement testing requirements.

The movements of show cattle from the Low TB Area to and from agricultural shows and back into a QU, are covered by a general licence. The conditions of the general licence can be found at:

<https://beta.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-04/bovine-tb-moving-cattle-to-a-non-exempt-show.pdf>.



The conditions include a requirement to notify APHA of the first movement of a bovine animal into a QU and the final movement of a bovine animal into the QU. The final movement back into the QU must be in the same calendar year, as the first movement in, to ensure that a final post-movement test is completed.

Ad-hoc inspections to ensure the cattle are retained in the QU may be carried out by APHA and any breaches of conditions of the licence may result in the licence being revoked for an individual holding for a specified period.

**118. Why are you requiring use of a certified Quarantine Unit to enable multiple movements to and from Shows?**

Use of the QU will protect a keeper's own herd and will reduce the risk of disease being spread within the Low TB Area prior to completion of post-movement testing. Otherwise, the keeper would not be able to move his cattle to multiple Shows within the Show season because the animals must remain on the holding until completion of a clear Post-Movement Test.

**119. Am I able to use my Quarantine Unit for Six day standstill and show purposes at the same time?**

There should be no mixing of animals within the Quarantine Unit whilst it is being used for show animals – this means that sheep and cattle moving on and off the farm in the normal course of events either trigger the 6 day standstill or move through a separate QU. This would include show sheep and goats. We recognise that mixing during transit may constitute a risk, however, our advice would be not to mix species during transit, where practicable.

Allowing sheep into the same QU as the show cattle needlessly extends the period of contact.

**120. If I am showing dairy cattle will I be able to move them into my usual milking parlour while they are in the Quarantine Unit?**

Lactating animals must not leave a QU to be milked, and the sharing of milking facilities between quarantined and non-quarantined animals is not permitted. If dairy animals enter the QU, dedicated temporary milking facility can be used within the QU itself, provided any portable equipment is not moved out of the QU, before thorough cleansing and disinfection has taken place.

Milk from animals within the QU can be sold in the normal way, but must not be fed to other animals on the main holding (including cats and dogs).

**121. Shows less than 24hrs in duration and/or do not involve housing are exempt from PrMT / PoMT rules. Does this include tents/ marquees?**

Tents and marquees (even those with no sides) are considered to be housing and are not exempt from PrMT/PoMT requirements.

**122. Has industry been consulted on this issue?**

The Welsh Government has discussed options for protecting the Low TB Area from disease imported back from shows outside of the Low TB Area, with representatives of the Association of Show and Agricultural Organisations (ASAO) and the Royal Welsh Agricultural Society (RWAS) and assimilated their concerns while developing this policy.

### **123. What are Quarantine Units certified by the Welsh Government?**

A *Quarantine Unit* (QU) certified by a certification body, on behalf of the Welsh Government is a specific type of isolation facility, developed by the Welsh Government, for cattle, sheep, or goats, moving on to a holding, to provide short term accommodation, in order to negate the requirement for the whole holding to be subject to the 6 day standstill. They operate to specified operational rules and requirements, to prevent contact with other animals on the holding and are approved by a certification body.

A Certified QU provides an appropriate level of biosecurity; they are inspected, to ensure standards are maintained and that they are being used appropriately. Certified Quarantine Unit requirements and operational rules, following a public consultation, were agreed by the Welsh Livestock Identification Group (LIDAG) and delivery partners. The proposals were also subject to a thorough Veterinary Risk Assessment.

For use under the General Licence for cattle moving to and from non-exempt shows in the Low TB Area, a certified QU must only contain similar cattle moving to and from exempt shows.

Certified Quarantine Unit requirements and operational rules may be similar to those for other isolation facilities, depending on the use and requirements for those isolation facilities and whether they are part of a requirement for a scheme, such as the industry TB Cattle Health Schemes, operating under CHeCs.

More information and frequently asked questions relating specifically to Quarantine Units can be found here <http://gov.wales/docs/drah/publications/171003-quarantine-units-frequently-asked-questions-en.pdf>

### **124. What is a TB isolation facility?**

An *isolation facility* is any building, or outside area, which has biosecurity measures in place to prevent either direct, or indirect contact of isolated animals through a shared airspace, the drainage or disposal of excreta, or the shared use of equipment with other animals on the premises. They may be used to prevent the onward transmission of disease from moved in animals, whose disease status is unknown, until testing for the disease is complete. They may also be used to contain the spread of disease from an already infected animal, or animals.

### **125. What is the difference between a Quarantine Unit and a TB Isolation Unit?**

Unlike an Isolation facility a TB Isolation Unit has been approved by APHA for TB restricted holdings enabling a group of young cattle to regain OTF status under a separate TB testing regime from the main herd. They must be located away from the

main holding, in a unit with high biosecurity measures in place, under a separate holding number and requiring a licensed movement to the unit. Mitigation of risk of potential disease spread, is one of the main factors in approving such units. TB Isolation Units can only be set up outside the Low and Intermediate North TB Areas.

Isolation facilities may also be agreed by APHA, on a TB restricted holding, to mitigate against the risk from and to animals purchased onto the premises under a licence, following a Veterinary Risk Assessment.

## **126. How do I apply for a Quarantine Unit?**

QUs must be certified by a Certification Body accredited by the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS). There is currently one Certification Body accredited to certify QUs:

Quality Welsh Food Certification Ltd. Email: [info@qwfc.co.uk](mailto:info@qwfc.co.uk)

Tel: 01970 636 688

You should contact the Certification Body, who will be able to provide you with QU standards and operational rules. Once you have set up your QU in adherence to the standards provided, you should contact the Certification Body to arrange for it to be reviewed and certified. Certification Bodies will charge a fee for this service.

Further information can also be found on the [Welsh Government's website at:](#)

<https://gov.wales/bovine-tb>

## Wildlife

### **127. What are you doing about the badger reservoir of infection in Wales?**

As part of the ongoing Action Plan process in place in persistent TB breakdowns, where the Welsh Government views that badgers are contributing to the persistence of disease in chronic herd breakdowns, badgers may be trapped and tested on the breakdown farm and test positive badgers humanely euthanased.

### **128. How do you show that badgers are contributing to the problem?**

Samples from badgers and cattle collected from a farm, will be subject to Whole Genome Sequencing, which can determine whether they share the same strain of infection.

### **129. Is the Badger Found Dead Survey continuing?**

Yes. The Welsh Government has completed a procurement tendering exercise and an All Wales Badger Found Dead and any other Wildlife Species Contract, commenced on 1 September 2017.

This contract enables the Welsh Government to continue to gather data and provide analysis on the prevalence of *M. bovis* infection in badgers and a genotype present.

If anyone comes across a dead badger carcass they should phone 08081 695 110 for further information and instructions.

### **130. Is there a correlation between infected badgers found and TB breakdowns in Wales?**

Yes, analysis of the molecular types of *M. bovis* in badgers from the 2005/06 Badger Found Dead Survey, were found to be common, with *M. bovis* in cattle in the area. The survey report concluded that tuberculosis in badgers in Wales, is closely associated with the disease in cattle, indicative of transmission of infection between the two species.

### **131. How long does bovine TB infect a sett for?**

Research undertaken in the Republic of Ireland by Young, Gormley and Wellington in 2004, demonstrated that *Mycobacterium bovis* is capable of persisting in the farm environment outside of its hosts. Survival time is influenced by climatic factors. In relation to survival in/or around a badger sett, the study detected *M.bovis* genes in soil around badger setts 21 months after possible contamination.

As with any TB infection, within an animal population living in close proximity to each other, TB can be slowly spread and recycled through the population mainly through infected sputum, aerosol droplets, or bite wounds. Research work shows, that not all animals in a sett will be infected with TB at any one time and not all animals with TB show clinical signs of illness, or are infectious. However, latent infection is a

significant issue with TB and animals can succumb to the disease and become infectious again, a long time after initial infection.

### **132. What about badger vaccination?**

As part of the ongoing trapping and testing of badgers on chronic herd breakdown farms, test negative badgers will be vaccinated prior to release.

Trapping and vaccination work has resumed on farms previously approved for grant funding.

### **133. Is there any grant funding available for badger vaccination?**

The Badger Vaccination Grant is now open for new and existing applicants, to support privately delivered badger vaccination projects in Wales. The Badger Vaccination Grant gives farmers, landowners and other organisations in Wales the opportunity to vaccinate badgers against bovine TB.

New applicants wishing to vaccinate badgers can apply to the Badger Vaccination Grant for financial support for up to four years, and existing grant applicants can apply for an extension of financial support for another 2 years. Successful applicants will receive up to 50% of the eligible costs of badger vaccination.

The application window will run from March 2019 to April 2019. Successful applicants will be able to begin vaccinating from May 2019. For further information, visit the Welsh Government website <https://beta.gov.wales/badger-vaccination-grant>.