



Animal &  
Plant Health  
Agency

# United Kingdom contingency plan for exotic notifiable diseases of animals

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- [Welsh Government](#)
- [Scottish Government](#)
- [Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs \(Northern Ireland\)](#)

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# Foreword

The United Kingdom contingency plan for exotic notifiable diseases of animals has been updated to reflect changes since it was first published in 2012.

The risk of an incursion of exotic notifiable animal disease in the United Kingdom (UK) remains ever present. It is important that we all maintain the highest levels of vigilance and continue to build on our existing high level of preparedness.

Outbreaks of exotic disease present a significant threat to farming, to rural communities, to animal keepers and to the economy. We all have a shared interest in a rapid and effective response. This limits the potential spread of disease and makes sure those parts of the UK that can show they are free from disease can be recognised at the earliest opportunity. We are committed to using the strong links between each administration to meet these challenges.

The effective response to disease involves many levels of activity and responsibility: central government and its agencies, devolved administrations, local government, non-governmental organisations (including representative organisations and charities), operational partners, veterinarians and animal keepers all have their part to play.

Each country in the UK produces their own contingency plan that sets out the structures and systems used to co-ordinate an effective response within its own jurisdiction. Co-ordination between administrations is crucial to effective and early disease control and to enable disease free status to be recovered without delay. This plan provides a UK-wide overview of how we work together and complements the individual country plans.

The UK's approach to biosecurity is internationally recognised for delivering the highest standards of protection from diseases of animals. The UK system for assurance makes sure the regulations for animal health and welfare within the agri-food chain are fit for purpose and properly implemented.

We are all committed to a healthy and sustainable livestock sector in UK and will continue to work together to make sure we are ready and able to cope with any future challenges that may arise.

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# 1. Introduction

- 1.1. The health and welfare of animals concerns not just animal keepers or the governments of the UK, but all of us. Exotic notifiable animal disease outbreaks can have public health, economic and social impacts within the affected livestock or non-commercial animal sector, together with wider industry, trade, and community consequences. Contingency planning helps make sure the good health of farmed, non-commercial animals and the livestock industry is maintained.
- 1.2. In the UK, animal health and welfare is a devolved matter; the responsible bodies are the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) in England, the Scottish Government (SG) in Scotland, the Welsh Government (WG) in Wales and the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) in Northern Ireland.
- 1.3. In the event of an exotic notifiable disease outbreak in animals, there will be a co-ordinated approach to disease control and eradication, with close working between each country's administration, operational partners, and stakeholders.
- 1.4. In Great Britain the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA), working closely with Defra, SG and WG, takes the operational lead in preparing for and controlling outbreaks and incidents of exotic notifiable diseases of animals. In Northern Ireland that role is undertaken by the DAERA.
- 1.5. Each country in the UK publishes a contingency plan for exotic notifiable diseases of animals which sets out the roles, responsibilities, systems and structures in place to respond to disease and highlight important work undertaken to prevent disease incursion and prepare for emergencies. The plans are available from:
  - [Defra \(England\)](#)
  - [Scottish Government \(Scotland\)](#)
  - [Welsh Government \(Wales\)](#)
  - [DAERA \(Northern Ireland\)](#)
- 1.6. This plan has been published to assist stakeholders in understanding the response to an exotic notifiable disease outbreak at the UK level. This should be read in conjunction with the plan for each part of the UK, which provides additional detail on each administration's response arrangements and structures.
- 1.7. If disease does occur in the UK then the relevant administrations of each country will act swiftly and decisively to:
  - protect the health and safety of the public and those directly involved in controlling the outbreak
  - eradicate the disease and regain disease-free status
  - minimise the burden on the taxpayer and public and the economic impact of the outbreak on industry

1.8. The administrations will also endeavour to:

- keep to a minimum the number of animals that must be destroyed either for disease control purposes or to safeguard animal welfare
- minimise adverse impacts on animal welfare, the rural and wider economy, the public, rural communities and the environment

## 2. Role of the Chief Veterinary Officers in each country of the UK

2.1. The main responsibilities of each Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) in relation to outbreaks of exotic notifiable disease within each country are listed below:

- participation in case conferences and teleconferences to assess any suspicions or threats of exotic notifiable disease
- confirmation of exotic notifiable disease in their country
- activating the relevant disease response structures
- advising ministers and senior officials
- briefing the media and acting as spokesperson
- liaison with other CVOs and senior officials from other government departments - for example with those involved in public health protection
- attendance at strategic meetings during the outbreak - for example the Animal Disease Policy Group (ADPG) and Cabinet Office Briefing Rooms (COBR) as required.

2.2. In addition to the responsibilities in paragraph 2.1, the CVO Scotland is responsible for:

- animal disease control policy
- the interface between SG policy and operational functions
- attending Disease Strategy Group (DSG) meetings
- chairing Scottish stakeholder meetings and attendance at Scottish Government's Resilience (SGoR) meetings (the Scottish Government's corporate response)

2.3. In addition to the responsibilities in paragraph 2.1, the CVO Wales is responsible for:

- animal disease prevention and control policy
- chairing CVO (Wales) daily review
- chairing Welsh stakeholder meetings
- attendance at Wales Civil Contingencies Committee (WCCC) and the Welsh Government Civil Contingencies Group

- confirming the establishment of the Emergency Co-ordination Centre (Wales) (ECC(W))
- 2.4. In addition to the responsibilities in paragraph 2.1, the CVO Northern Ireland is responsible for:
- animal disease prevention and control policy
  - attending the DAERA Strategy Group, the cross departmental crisis management group and relevant stakeholder meetings

## Role of the UK CVO

- 2.5. In addition to the responsibilities outlined in paragraph 2.1, the UK CVO, who is also the CVO for England, has an important international representational role, contributing to the development of UK and international policies and leading the UK in international trade discussions and negotiations on animal health and welfare matters. To achieve these aims the UK CVO works closely with the CVOs from Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, with international bodies such as the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and other trading partners including the EU Commission, and with veterinary officials in other countries.
- 2.6. The UK CVO has additional responsibilities relating to exotic notifiable disease outbreaks, these include:
- chairing case conferences, stocktakes and Amber teleconferences to assess any suspicions or threats of exotic notifiable disease
  - notifying the OIE in the event of a confirmed disease outbreak
  - liaison with the EU and other trading partners
  - making any requests for additional resources from the International Animal Health Emergency Reserve (IAHER)
  - heading the National Disease Control Centre (NDCC)
  - bringing together the operational and policy functions that are activated across the UK
- 2.7. The UK CVO is not responsible for animal disease control policy. That responsibility is held by the Defra Director of Animal Health and Plant Health and Welfare for England and the Northern Ireland CVO for Northern Ireland, CVO Scotland for Scotland and CVO Wales for Wales.

## 3. United Kingdom structures and procedures

- 3.1. There are well defined procedures for responding to and investigating suspicion of exotic notifiable disease in animals and subsequently confirming presence of disease. The principles are the same across the UK to make sure there is a consistent and co-ordinated approach that meets the requirements of domestic legislation and international requirements. There are some differences in process in

Northern Ireland compared to Great Britain due to the different administrative structures and reflecting the fact that Northern Ireland is a separate epidemiological entity.

## Suspicion of disease and alerts

- 3.2. In the UK there is a legal duty on any person who suspects that an animal may have an exotic notifiable disease to report their suspicions to the appropriate authorities. In Great Britain the first point of contact the local APHA duty vet who will assess the situation and arrange for an investigation to be carried out if required. In Northern Ireland suspicion of disease will be investigated by the DAERA epizootics Divisional Veterinary Officer (DVO).
- 3.3. There may be a series of case conferences on suspicion of exotic notifiable disease in animals to discuss emerging issues. Attendees would usually comprise the 4 chief veterinary officers (CVOs) in the UK, supported by policy and veterinary officials from each administration. This meeting would determine whether circumstances warranted triggering an amber teleconference.
- 3.4. If suspicion of disease is strong and its presence cannot be ruled out on clinical grounds, an amber teleconference is held. This involves the CVOs, policy and veterinary officials from each administration together with a range of attendees who would have a role in a potential outbreak (if declared), including other government departments and agencies. The purpose of the teleconference is to inform participants of the situation, to assess the risk and to agree on next steps. The meeting is chaired by the UK CVO and follows a standard agenda. During the teleconference the CVO of the country concerned may confirm disease or specify what further evidence, such as test results, would be needed. The teleconference would also agree plans for future actions and the necessary communications (including notifications to others) based on the emerging situation.
- 3.5. In Northern Ireland the Emergency Command Group (ECG) is established in advance of the amber teleconference. The ECG is an interim command group comprising of personnel from Veterinary Service, Animal Health and Welfare Policy Division and the Agri-food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI). The ECG co-ordinates all aspects of initial response on suspicion of epizootic disease and produces the initial situation report.
- 3.6. It is the responsibility of the CVO of each administration to confirm disease in their country. If a veterinary risk assessment indicates an unacceptable risk in waiting for laboratory test results, the country CVO may decide to commence disease control operations without waiting for the results of laboratory investigations.

## Structures

- 3.7. Upon confirmation of an exotic notifiable disease in animals, the appropriate contingency plans for the affected administrations are invoked. Clear command and control structures are put in place to direct, coordinate and support the disease control response.

- 3.8. It is important to recognise that there should be flexibility and proportionality in the delivery of the response. In smaller outbreaks or single cases, it may not be necessary to establish all the structures required for a major event. There may be variations depending on the nature of the response although most of the activities and functions will still need to be delivered.

## **Strategic level**

- 3.9. At a strategic level, the impact of the emergency response on the UK is overseen by COBR. In the event of an outbreak solely in England, COBR is the sole strategic level oversight group. If an outbreak affects other parts of the UK, additional groups will convene: in Scotland, the Cabinet Sub-Committee - Scottish Government Resilience (CSC-SGoR) and in Wales, the Wales Civil Contingencies Committee (WCCC). In Northern Ireland, the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) Strategy Group would oversee the strategic level response as part of the Department's Major Emergency Response Plan (MERP), which is activated for any serious emergency in which DAERA is the lead government department. The Northern Ireland Central Crisis Management Arrangements (NICCMA) may be invoked which would involve the establishment of the Crisis Management Group (CMG) and the Civil Contingencies Group (Northern Ireland) (CCG(NI)).
- 3.10. The Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE) coordinates scientific and technical advice to help support UK cross-government decision making and reports to COBR.
- 3.11. The groups outlined above each contribute to the management of the wider consequences of a disease outbreak, including those which affect other UK government departments, and provide strategic direction to the tactical response. The group and the relevant administration would agree whether convening a meeting is an appropriate and proportionate response to the outbreak.

## **Tactical level (England, Scotland and Wales)**

- 3.12. Unlike most other major incidents and emergency responses, Defra, the Scottish Government and the Welsh Government are not only the lead government departments, but together with their executive agencies and organisations are largely directly responsible for the delivery of both the local and national disease control response.
- 3.13. At Great Britain level, the tactical response when an outbreak is declared is co-ordinated through a National Disease Control Centre (NDCC) appropriate to the level required to handle the outbreak or incident.
- 3.14. The main component parts of the NDCC will normally be based in London independent of the actual location of the disease outbreak. The support mechanisms and personnel for the NDCC and Outbreak Co-ordination Group (OCG) can be quickly deployed and the location provides easy access for operational partners and stakeholders. In the event of an outbreak solely in

Scotland or Wales certain elements of the NDCC may be based in the affected countries.

3.15. The NDCC brings together operational functions provided by APHA and other executive agencies and organisations, with policy input provided from individual administrations through the following mechanisms:

- England - appropriate parts of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra);
- Scotland - the Scottish Government's Disease Strategy Group (DSG);
- Wales - the Welsh Government Emergency Co-ordination Centre (Wales) (ECC(W));
- Northern Ireland - the Central Epizootic Disease Control Centre (CEDCC).

The policy on disease control of each administration may differ depending on the circumstances but will, insofar as is possible, be complementary. Where there are approaches that are, or may be, in conflict the relevant CVOs and senior officials will seek to arrive at a compromise. If that is not possible, the appropriate ministers will be invited to discuss the problem with a view to reaching a resolution.

3.16. The NDCC's main responsibilities are:

- Policy:
  - to develop, propose and interpret policy within the legislative and wider strategic framework
  - to prepare papers for ADPG to go to ministers and other strategic decision makers
  - to work in partnership with stakeholders
- Operations:
  - to co-ordinate and direct the delivery of the disease control operation in partnership with stakeholders and in accordance with the policy set by each administration involved in the disease response

3.17. A consistent approach across the Great British administrations and expert advice are obtained via the following shared NDCC structures:

#### **Animal Disease Policy Group (ADPG)**

Provides the UK wide forum where disease control policy and strategic recommendations should be presented, reviewed, discussed, challenged and agreed. Collective views reached would be put to respective sets of Ministers for agreement. ADPG also has an important role in making sure policies are, as far as possible, consistent across the 4 administrations. ADPG membership includes the 4 CVOs from across the UK and other representatives from the four administrations, the Cabinet Office, and public health bodies who provide advice on zoonotic disease.

#### **National Experts Group (NEG)**

Provides expert and technical advice on the disease and its control to the three GB administrations. Experts may also be convened as a scientific group, with

participants specifically selected on the basis of specialist expertise, to provide expert scientific advice to inform disease control policy.

### **National Emergency Epidemiology Group (NEEG)**

Provides epidemiological advice and assessment on the determinants, level and distribution of disease to the NEG, the CVOs and other groups to inform decisions on disease control and prevention measures including vaccination and surveillance.

- 3.18. The NEG and NEEG will regularly communicate with the SAGE if this structure has been activated.
- 3.19. In addition to the shared NDCC structures, the NDCC oversees the following specific tasks on behalf of the 3 administrations:

### **SPS and trade policy teams**

Work with the APHA Centre for International Trade and are responsible for policies to prevent the transmission of disease to other countries by controlling the export of commodities that can spread disease. This includes re-establishing export markets as the disease situation improves.

### **The APHA International Disease Monitoring team**

Monitors animal diseases across the world (particularly those affecting trading partners and countries within and bordering the EU), that would have a significant impact if introduced into the UK. They produce preliminary outbreak assessments or full qualitative risk assessments to assist decision-making by those responsible for biosecurity, surveillance, disease preparedness and enforcement.

### **The Global Animal Health team**

Is responsible for communications within the EU and internationally, ensuring effective representation of the UK's disease control activities.

- 3.20. An Outbreak Coordination Group (OCG) is established as part of the NDCC and is responsible for ensuring that strategic and tactical direction and policy intent is translated into practical instructions. OCG membership includes members of staff from Contingency Planning Division (CPD) and wider APHA business functions. It provides an advisory and coordination function for those involved in controlling the disease at the operational level and produces management information, situation and summary reports.
- 3.21. Operational partners are represented through national organisations at the NDCC, as well as at the local level, in order to facilitate an efficient multiagency response. The command and control structures are aligned with emergency response structures established to manage any wider consequences of the disease outbreak.

## **Tactical level (Northern Ireland)**

- 3.22. In Northern Ireland, the tactical level response is managed by 2 Silver Commanders. Generic communications and resourcing elements of the response are the responsibility of the MERP Silver Commander whereas the emergency disease response is directed and delivered by the Veterinary Service silver

commander (Deputy CVO) and DAERA's Central Epizootic Disease Control Centre (CEDCC).

3.23. The CEDCC is responsible for coordinating the tactical response and its functions include:

- overall general management of disease control, including the development of policy
- planning and coordinating the tasks allocated to the local operational level
- determining priorities in resource allocation
- provision of advice to counterparts at the operational level
- obtaining resources and arranging emergency regulations/derogations
- attendance at NDCC birdtables and return of situation reports as required

3.24. Operational partners from a range of Northern Ireland organisations such as the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI), Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service, and the Public Health Agency (PHA) are represented at the CEDCC as well as at the local level.

## **Response to COVID-19**

3.25. In response to COVID-19 and the national lockdowns, APHA prepared a concept of operations (conops) outlining how our disease response structures would continue to operate. This document sets out arrangements to run the CDCC/NDCC remotely and to operate a forward operating base (FOB) while observing social distancing. The conops has been and will continue to be regularly reviewed in line with changes in government guidelines and restrictions.

## **Resourcing the outbreak response**

3.26. The successful response to an outbreak of exotic notifiable disease in animals requires considerable resource from each administration involved and from operational partners and stakeholders. The exact level of resource needed will depend on the type and extent of the situation and will vary during the different phases of the response.

3.27. The UK has well developed procedures to make sure the right people with the right skills can be mobilised to respond to an outbreak.

3.28. In Great Britain the initial emergency response capability would be provided by staff from APHA, the appropriate department from the affected administrations (Defra, SG and WG), and other government departments. There are additional schemes in place, such as the WG emergency volunteers pool, Scottish Government's SGoR support team, and in Defra volunteers are drawn from teams not involved in the outbreak response. These aim to get staff with the appropriate skills and experience into place quickly.

- 3.29. APHA have established a resource planning cell that would provide immediate, short term assistance to the operational response at the start of the disease outbreak.
- 3.30. There are several mechanisms in place to obtain additional veterinary resource such as the use of non-government veterinarians either as part of guaranteed contingency contract arrangements or on temporary contracts, and the use of overseas veterinarians (as part of the International Animal Health Emergency Reserve (IAHER) agreement).
- 3.31. In Northern Ireland, DAERA veterinary and technical staff will provide the initial emergency response capability. On activation of the MERP, DAERA will also engage administrative, technical and industrial staff from other areas of the Department, including the Forest Service and Rivers Agency. Local councils, the Department of Regional Development and the Northern Ireland Environment Agency will each lend staff and equipment under the terms of Memoranda of Understanding.

## UK level meetings

- 3.32. In order to manage the outbreak or incident, meetings and reports that take place across the command and control structures adhere to a pre-determined schedule (known as a “battle rhythm”). The exact battle rhythm followed will depend on several factors including the circumstance of the disease, stage of the outbreak and affected area. The table below details the main meetings held and reports compiled at the UK level. The individual country plans set out the details of the meetings specific to each country. For small outbreaks or outbreaks of low impact diseases, this battle rhythm would be scaled back as appropriate

<b>Time</b>	<b>Main participants</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
08:00 to 08:30	CVOs, NDCC (OCC, Defra, DSG, ECC(W)), DAERA	Daily strategic stocktake	To make sure senior managers involved in the disease control operation are aware of the latest developments and able to plan and take decisions on the overall strategic direction.

<b>Time</b>	<b>Main participants</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
08:30 to 09:00	NDCC (OCG, Defra, DSG, ECC(W)), DAERA	Birdtable	To provide brief situation reports on all aspects of the operation to those concerned in its management, operational partners, and external stakeholders, to encourage a coordinated and cooperative response. To identify emerging issues and allocate responsibility for resolving them and reporting back.
09:00 to 09:30	NDCC (OCG, Defra, DSG, ECC(W)), DAERA, 10 Downing St.	Daily communications meeting	To identify and agree communications strategy for the day
10:00 to 11:00	Cabinet Office and Ministers	COBR	To provide a forum for ministerial review of strategies in a wider government context and for dealing with decisions relating to policy and operational strategy issues that affect other government departments.
12:00 to 12:30	NDCC (OCG, Defra, DSG, ECC(W)), DAERA	NDCC Birdtable	See 08:30 to 09:00 birdtable.
15:00 to 16:00	Cabinet Office and Ministers	COBR	See 10:00 to 11:00 COBR
18:00	NDCC (OCG, Defra, DSG, ECC(W)) and FOB	Situation reports due. Submitted to the NDCC Management Information and Reports team	To provide brief situation reports on all aspects of the operation.

<b>Time</b>	<b>Main participants</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
18:00 to 18:30	NDCC (OCG, Defra, DSG, ECC(W)), DAERA	NDCC Birdtable	See 08:30 : 09:00 birdtable.
21:00 (approximately)	NDCC Management Information and Reports Team	NDCC report compiled and circulated	To provide a comprehensive situation report on all aspects of the operation.
When needed	UK administrations, other experts are selected on the basis of their specialist expertise	National experts group	To provide tactical advice and recommendations on the disease and its control to the Great Britain administrations.
When needed	UK administrations, Cabinet Office, public health representatives	Animal disease policy group	To provide disease control policy advice and strategy recommendations to ministers and the NSC. To challenge strategic assumptions and to make sure policies are consistent across the administrations.

## 4. Communications

### Internal communications

- 4.1. An outbreak of exotic notifiable disease in animals, wherever it occurs in the UK, requires effective and rapid communications between administrations at several levels both to ensure the flow of information and assist in the prevention of disease spread.
- 4.2. All country administrations are involved in the UK CVO case conferences and the amber teleconference on suspicion of disease. Communications and the notification to others will be discussed in these forums.
- 4.3. During a disease outbreak the involvement of each country will depend on the situation, the areas affected, and the risks associated with the disease. All

administrations attend daily communications meetings, NDCC birdtables and Animal Disease Policy Group (ADPG) meetings.

## External communications with the media, operational partners and stakeholders

- 4.4. It is important in an outbreak of exotic notifiable disease in animals that there are effective, timely and accurate communications with stakeholders, farmers and animal keepers, the public and the media. A variety of communication methods will be used to assist in reducing the impacts, to prevent disease spread, and to provide timely accurate updates on the latest situation.
- 4.5. A daily communications meeting is held at the NDCC (including representatives from APHA, the administrations and other UK departments as appropriate) to identify and agree the content of internal and external communications.
- 4.6. Press conferences by CVOs will be co-ordinated to make sure a clear picture is presented on the outbreak situation. The spokespersons for the media will depend on the circumstances of the outbreak and which country or countries are affected in accordance with the agreed communications principles.
- 4.7. Individual administrations take lead responsibility for delivering disease response information to animal keepers as outlined in respective communications strategies. APHA manages the distribution of information packs to premises with susceptible stock within disease Protection Zones and Surveillance Zones in Great Britain. Similar arrangements for animal keepers in Northern Ireland are managed by DAERA
- 4.8. The management, control and eradication of an outbreak or incident of exotic notifiable disease in animals requires a co-ordinated response and effective communication between the many organisations involved in the disease response. Operational partners will be involved at both the national level and locally as part of the operational response.
- 4.9. Regular birdtable meetings will take place to make sure all parties involved in the disease control operation have a clear picture of the current situation. These meetings provide a forum for policy, operations and communications functions to provide brief situation reports and facilitate a co-ordinated and co-operative response. Important emerging issues will be identified and responsibilities for resolving them and reporting back allocated.
- 4.10. The MERP communications unit is responsible for communications in Northern Ireland including co-ordinating information requests and sharing material from the CEDCC as appropriate. The MERP structure includes the DAERA press office for engagement with the media and the DAERA Private Office for responses to queries from Northern Ireland assembly members. Information briefings are also prepared for the minister, DAERA staff and the press office.
- 4.11. Communication with stakeholders is also important during a disease outbreak and stakeholders will be represented at the tactical and operational level. Each

administration will meet regularly with their stakeholders to keep them informed of developments and to make sure any concerns can be raised and addressed.

## Glossary

Abbreviation	Meaning
ADPG	Animal Disease Policy Group
AFBI	Agri-food and Biosciences Institute (NI)
APHA	Animal & Plant Health Agency
APHEA	Animal and Plant Health Evidence & Analysis
CCG(NI)	Civil Contingencies Group Northern Ireland
CDCC	Central Disease Control Centre
CEDCC	Central Epizootic Disease Control Centre (NI)
CMG	Crisis Management Group (NI)
COBR	Cabinet Office Briefing Rooms, a series of rooms located in the Cabinet Office in 70 Whitehall. COBR or COBRA is shorthand for the Civil Contingencies Committee that is convened to handle matters of national emergency or major disruption.
CPD	Contingency Planning Department
CSC-SGoR	Cabinet Sub-Committee - Scottish Government Resilience
CVO	Chief Veterinary Officer
DAERA	Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (NI)
Defra	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
DSG	Disease Strategy Group (Scotland)
DVO	Divisional Veterinary Officer (NI)
ECC(W)	Emergency Co-ordination Centre (Wales)
ECG	Emergency Command Group (NI)
EU	European Union
FOB	Forward Operating Base
GB	Great Britain
IAHER	International Animal Health Emergency Reserve
MERP	Major Emergency Response Plan (NI)
NDCC	National Disease Control Centre

<b>Abbreviation</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
NEEG	National Emergency Epidemiology Group
NEG	National Experts Group
NI	Northern Ireland
NICCMA	Northern Ireland Central Crisis Management Arrangements
OCG	Outbreak Co-ordination Group
OFFC	Official Feed and Food Controls
OIE	Office International des Epizooties (World Organisation for Animal Health)
PHA	Public Health Agency (NI)
PSNI	Police Service Northern Ireland
SAGE	Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies
SG	Scottish Government
SGoR	Scottish Government's Resilience
SPS	Sanitary and Phytosanitary
UK	United Kingdom
WCCC	Wales Civil Contingencies Committee
WG	The Welsh Government