



Note of the Animal Health Surveillance Governance Board (AHSGB) Meeting

Date	Thursday 17 th March 2016
Location	Council Room, RVC, Camden Campus, London
Attendees	Dirk Pfeiffer (Chair), Paul Burr, Nick Fenwick, Nigel Gibbens, Christianne Glossop, Gordon Hickman, Richard Irvine, Ian McGrath, Paul Roger, Emma Wittmann (Secretariat)
Speakers	Dirk Pfeiffer, Nigel Gibbens, Christianne Glossop, Richard Irvine
Apologies	Christine Middlemiss

Agenda

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies
2. Review of minutes and action points from previous meeting
3. Update from Animal Health and Welfare Board England and Wales Animal Health & Welfare Framework Group
4. Update on new Defra strategy
5. Work plan updates and discussion session
6. Future meeting agenda items
7. Next Board meetings

Notes

1	Welcome, introductions and apologies
1.1	The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed the attendees.

2	Review of minutes and action points from previous meeting (04/12/15)
2.1	The minutes and actions from the previous meeting held on 4 December 2015 were reviewed and agreed.
2.2	A suitable hosting location on the APHA website (Vet Gateway) has been identified for the publication of AHSGB meeting notes.
2.3	A letter of recommendations from the Board was sent to the APHA Chief Executive following the meeting on 4 December 2015. In relation to the recommendation on resourcing of the Surveillance Intelligence Unit, Richard Irvine gave an update on the current staffing situation. For future communications, it was agreed that post-Board meeting wash-ups should be arranged with the APHA Chief Executive, and also the Chair of the Animal Health and Welfare Board England and the Chair of the Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework Group.

3	Update from Animal Health and Welfare Board England and Wales Animal Health & Welfare Framework Group
3.1	Dirk Pfeiffer met with the Chair of the Animal Health and Welfare Board England and the Chair of the Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework Group in February 2016, and the potential need for a new surveillance strategy was discussed. The Board considered that it would be beneficial to develop a framework for England and Wales. The Policy Leads for England and Wales will take this forward, liaising with colleagues in Scotland and Northern Ireland. An update on the emerging framework will be given at the next Board meeting.
4	Update on new Defra strategy and implications of EU referendum for animal health in the UK
4.1	Nigel Gibbens – Chief Veterinary Officer UK – gave an update on Defra’s strategy to 2020, which incorporates seven strategic objectives. Of particular relevance is the ‘Protection’ objective, focusing on floods and animal and plant disease. Surveillance is central to achieving this, via early warning and early detection. Surveillance is also relevant to the objectives on ‘Food and Farming’ and the ‘Rural’ economy. In addition, the cross-cutting theme on ‘Data’ should support capabilities on data and the ‘Productivity’ theme should reinforce the need to exploit the data gathered.
5	Work plan updates and discussion session
5.1	<p>The Board agreed the draft revisions to the recommendations described in the independent Surveillance Advisory Group (SAG) report from 2012. It was also agreed that the surveillance system requirements identified by SAG (Annex 2 of the 2012 report) are still valid.</p> <p>In addition, three key pillars were identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post-mortem diagnostic service provision including non-APHA service providers, while maintaining required ‘top tier’ caseload and expertise provided by APHA, engagement with vets and farmers and achieving the best possible outcomes in partnership with the private sector, where possible. • Data capture and integration from different sources, with analysis, sharing and communication. • Government’s roles relate primarily to ‘top tier’ pathology and species-specific veterinary, scientific and investigative expertise and work (to address where there may be market failure). <p>This strategic guidance from the Board on the vision for surveillance will inform the development of the surveillance framework (see point 3.1 above).</p>
5.2	It was noted that a combined England and Wales policy discussion on how the objectives of Surveillance 2014 have been taken forward will be held in April. The Board will act in an advisory capacity if required.

5.3	It was noted that the Board needs to support the Surveillance Intelligence Unit developing and delivering state-of-the-art scanning surveillance.
6	Future meeting agenda items
6.1	<p>Items identified included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • update on the draft surveillance framework (point 3.1 above) • interactive presentation on a specific topic/theme • work plan update, involving a visual update on high level indicators
7	Next Board meetings
7.1	The next Board meetings are planned to take place on 1 June 2016, 1 September 2016 and 1 December 2016.