



Note of the Animal Health Surveillance Governance Board (AHSGB) Meeting 6

Date	Thursday 1 st September 2016
Location	Council Room, RVC, Camden Campus, London
Attendees	Chair: Dirk Pfeiffer External members: Ian McGrath, Paul Burr & Paul Roger <i>Ex officio</i> members and Policy Customers: Nigel Gibbens, Richard Irvine, Gavin Watkins & Gordon Hickman. Secretariat: Jane Tennant
Apologies	Peredur Hughes and Nick Fenwick

Agenda

1. Welcome & Apologies
2. Review of Minutes, Action points and Recommendations from previous meeting
3. Review & Update of Conflicts of Interest register
4. Future arrangements for Chair of AHSGB
5. Update on the GB Surveillance Framework
6. Surveillance Intelligence Unit development projects updates
7. Developing the Governance of scanning surveillance
8. Dates & locations of next meetings
9. Any Other Business

Minutes

1	Welcome and apologies
1.1	The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed all attendees.
1.2	Apologies were received from Peredur Hughes and Nick Fenwick.
2	Review of minutes, action points and recommendations from previous meeting
2.1	The minutes of the previous meeting (5-010616) were agreed and accepted. All actions from previous meetings were agreed and completed/closed.
2.2	GW advised that a new agriculture Minister for the Welsh Government has been in place since May. Defra now has a new minister, Lord Gardiner. Lord Gardiner is particularly interested in early warning, new and re-emerging threats and taking appropriate mitigating actions.
2.3	Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) – Nigel Gibbens summarised a discussion on this topic; the <u>Board is recommending</u> that we need a measure of the sensitivity of the surveillance system, and it needs to address other users of the system. Whilst the surveillance system is still under development there is a need to consider some interim measures.

2.4	A large number of animal and livestock industry groups are represented at the Cattle Health and Welfare Group (CHAWG). APHA routinely attend and actively contribute to CHAWG. Ian McGrath recently attended a meeting and presented on the AHSGB. As a result, CHAWG agreed that they would write to the AHSGB Chair to highlight the needs of surveillance.
2.5	Ian McGrath reported that the APHA Cattle Expert Group vet lead gave an excellent presentation on Bluetongue. A discussion followed regarding surveillance in the farming press, in order to help engage industry and highlight the role of surveillance, the APHA Species Expert Groups and the AHSGB.
2.6	Dirk Pfeiffer suggested that the approaches and feedback gathered about APHA and Defra communications about Bluetongue be identified as a lesson to be learnt regarding gaps in communication with the industry. Richard Irvine advised the Board that the APHA communications team is already working with the Surveillance Intelligence Unit to explore how to enhance engagement and communications.
2.7	A discussion on how to best share information ensued, which link to the ongoing work within SIU, the APHA communications team and the webpages development project.
2.8	In relation to this the Board discussed key aspects of importance for surveillance communication in the farming press, and this should aim to include these key areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What benefits farmers receive from surveillance. • What is required from farmers into surveillance. • A brief description of how surveillance works at the moment. • How APHA (particularly the Surveillance Intelligence Unit) are trying to improve surveillance and how that will benefit farmers.

3	Review and Update of Conflicts of Interest Register
3.1	No amendments or additions were made to the Register.

4	Future arrangements for Chair of AHSGB
4.1	This was the last meeting Chaired by Dirk Pfeiffer as he is leaving the UK for a new post. It was noted that as part of the original Terms of Reference the Board is only 12 months from being reviewed. It was therefore suggested that an interim arrangement for the Chair is put into place and the review of the Board is triggered early.
4.2	After discussion by the Board it was formally <u>recommended</u> that the independent Board Members will Chair in rotation, the review will take place promptly and a formal replacement will be advertised for as quickly as possible pending the outcome of the review of the Board. It was agreed after the meeting that Paul Roger will act as the interim Chair going forward.

4.3	The review process for the Board will be considered and agreed at the next meeting.
5	Update on the GB Surveillance Framework, with draft document
5.1	Gordon Hickman provided an outline of the draft GB Surveillance Framework for the Board to consider. The draft has been authored by the English, Welsh and Scottish Scanning Surveillance policy leads.
5.2	The Board were asked to provide any comments directly and a full draft would be reviewed “live” at the next meeting.
6	Surveillance Intelligence Unit development projects updates
6.1	Richard Irvine gave a presentation on the current development plans for surveillance by the Surveillance Intelligence Unit.
6.2	Discussion on possible data sources, and methods to be used, that could be incorporated to enhance surveillance ensued. It was agreed that the need to maintain effective scanning surveillance has to be balanced with the requirements to continue to develop the surveillance system.
6.3	NG summarised that the Board is <u>recommending</u> that the changes to surveillance are entrained and resource needs to be made available to make it happen. This is the <u>Board’s challenge to both the Welsh and English Governments.</u> To enable this to happen, work will have to be prioritised.
7	Developing the Governance of scanning surveillance
7.1	The Board viewed an overview diagram of the current governance for surveillance.
7.2	<u>Recommendation:</u> The Board agreed the APHA proposal to establish a GB/UK Surveillance Steering Group as part of the wider governance of surveillance. Upon formation, the independent members of the AHSGB will attend on a rotating basis.
8	Dates & locations of next meetings
8.1	Thursday 1 December, 10.30-15.30 – Cardiff Welsh Government building
8.2	Dates for 2017 will be organised outside of the meeting.
9	Any Other Business
9.1	The Board offered their sincere thanks to Dirk Pfeiffer for his excellent job as Chair and wished him the best of luck for the future.