



Note of the Animal Health Surveillance Governance Board (AHSGB) Meeting 9

Date	Wednesday 7 th June 2017
Location	MacDonald Burlington Hotel, Birmingham
Attendees	Chair: Paul Roger (PR) External members: Ian McGrath (IM), Paul Burr (PB), Nick Fenwick (NF) <i>Ex officio</i> members and Policy Customers: Richard Irvine (RI), Gavin Watkins (GW), Gordon Hickman (GH), Graeme Cooke (GC). Secretariat: Jane Tennant (JT).
Apologies	Nigel Gibbens (NG)

Agenda

1. Welcome, Apologies & Conflicts of Interest Register
2. Review of Minutes, Action points and Recommendations from previous meeting
3. Update on attendance at other meetings
4. Annual Review of Budget and Finances
5. Update on the GB Surveillance Framework
6. Update on the Review of the AHSGB
7. Measures of Surveillance
8. Scanning Surveillance Development Programme Update
9. Dates & locations of next meetings
10. Any Other Business

Minutes

1	Welcome, apologies & Conflicts of Interest Register
1.1	Paul Roger welcomed all to the meeting; Graeme Cooke and Gavin Watkins joined by phone and Nigel Gibbens sent his apologies. The conflicts of interest register was reviewed and there were no changes.
2	Review of Minutes, Action points and Recommendations from previous meeting
2.1	The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed and approved by the Board as a complete and accurate record of the meeting.
2.2	Paul Roger highlighted the recent press release on Bluetongue virus (BTV) issued by APHA featuring comment from Nigel Gibbens. The Board agreed that protecting the health and welfare of animals on farm is paramount.
2.3	The British Veterinary Association (BVA) contacted c.1600 farm animal/mixed practice members in March 2017 and highlighted access to APHA expertise and the surveillance network. There was a 40% hit rate on the information by BVA members and the BVA blog published, which is a higher rate than usual. The BVA have also convened a surveillance working group which is meeting on 27 th June and which the AHSGB will present at.

2.4	Richard Irvine provided a summary overview of a paper showing comparative analyses of data for carcase & foetus diagnostic submissions to APHA VICs and non-APHA Partners PME sites during January to March (Q1) 2016 and 2017. He reminded the Board about the Government subsidised free-to-farmer collection service, and that diagnostic work and submissions are just one facet of the surveillance system. APHA will continue to communicate widely, particularly after the General Election, and that information on this will be included on the new surveillance webpages due to go live in mid-June 2017.
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3	Update on attendance at other meetings
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3.1	Richard Irvine and Paul Roger attended the Animal Health and Welfare Board for England and gave a presentation which included an update on the work of the AHSGB. Paul Roger emphasised the limitations on veterinary resource working on scanning surveillance in APHA. Surveillance is a vital issue in relation to international trade and the protection of the livestock industry now, and after the EU Exit.
3.2	PR attended the Veterinary Public Health Association (VPHA) meeting looking at cross-sector involvement in reducing the impact of tapeworm and how this could be approached. The meeting included the FSA and small animal sector, food industry and slaughter houses so a complete food chain involvement, which is ideal when considering surveillance.
3.3	Paul Roger attended, and presented at, the International Sheep Veterinary Association meeting in Harrogate which included presentations on surveillance across Europe. He also attended the recent Animal Welfare Foundation meeting where surveillance was an issue touched upon.
3.4	Richard Irvine gave an update on involvement with the FSA. APHA has been working with the Food Standards Agency (FSA) on CCIR and updating condition cards used. Species condition cards are now agreed and operators are being trained across plants.
3.5	Richard Irvine announced that he has been elected as the Junior Vice President of the British Poultry Veterinary Association, and so will be the President in two years, and the Senior Vice President after those two years of office; he also gave a keynote presentation on surveillance at the British Veterinary Poultry Association (BVPA) Spring conference.

4	Annual Review of Budget and Finances
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4.1	The Board were provided with a breakdown of APHA's scanning surveillance projects.
4.2	Gordon Hickman highlighted that a number of diseases important to trade, e.g. <i>Brucella</i> , Avian Influenza and <i>Salmonella</i> are not within the APHA scanning surveillance projects. Notifiable diseases are also not within the scanning surveillance projects, and have their own specific projects and budgets to operate. It was noted that the scanning surveillance system does also detect notifiable diseases.

5	Update on the GB Surveillance Framework
5.1	Graeme Cooke provided an update on the Surveillance Framework. The GB CVOs have proposed a workshop to bring together experts from the laboratory and policy teams in GB, to be held in the next month.
6	Update on the Review of the AHSGB
6.1	Ingrid Kiss completed the review of the AHSGB on time; it is comprehensive and includes ways of working and best practice seen elsewhere. An update will be provided at future meetings.
7	Measures of Surveillance
7.1	Richard Irvine gave an overview of the paper provided on potential measures and indicators of scanning surveillance performance in England and Wales. The Board discussed the paper fully and agreed which measures were the top priority.
7.2	Gavin Watkins expressed his endorsement of the paper and considers that a number of the measures proposed are proxies for relationships between farmers and vets, skills etc. It was also agreed that development of expertise is crucial, both within APHA and in the wider veterinary profession.
9	Scanning Surveillance Development Programme Update
9.1	Richard Irvine provided an overview of the Scanning Surveillance Development Programme Plan and a Progress Update Report. Due to the General Election the scheduled launch dates of two projects (APHA Vet Gateway and GB Sheep Disease Surveillance Dashboard) has been postponed. There is a communications plan in place for these launches. Development of the 'Cattle Dashboard' is still on target for August 2017.
10	Date & venues of 2017 meetings - confirmed
10.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thurs 21st September, Cathays Park, Welsh Government, Cardiff • Thurs 7th December, Nobel House
11	Any Other Business
11.1	None raised