

Note of the Animal Health Surveillance Governance Board (AHSGB) Meeting 10

Date	Thursday 21 st September 2017
Location	Cathays Park, Cardiff
Attendees	Chair: Paul Roger (PR) External members: Paul Burr (PB), Nick Fenwick (NF) <i>Ex officio</i> members and Policy Customers: Richard Irvine (RI), Gavin Watkins (GW), Graeme Cooke (GC) & Nigel Gibbens (NG). Secretariat: Jane Tennant (JT).
Apologies	Ian McGrath (IM) & Gordon Hickman (GH)

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. Update on the GB Surveillance Framework
5. Update on the Review of the AHSGB
6. Measures of Surveillance
7. Scanning Surveillance Development Programme Update
8. Dates & locations of next meetings
9. Any Other Business

Minutes

1	Welcome, apologies & Conflicts of Interest Register
1.1	Paul Roger welcomed all to the meeting; Ian McGrath and Gordon Hickman sent their apologies. The conflicts of interest register required one minor amendment, but otherwise 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	The ways of working of the industry sector groups were discussed, i.e. the Cattle Health and Welfare Group (CHAWG), Sheep Health and Welfare Group (SHAWG) and Pig Health and Welfare Council (PHWC). Each Species Expert Group Vet Lead (SEGL) within APHA is also closely allied to each sector group.
3	Update on attendance at other meetings.
3.1	Richard Irvine, Paul Roger and Jane Tennant attended the British Veterinary Association Surveillance Working Group (BVA SWG) meeting on the 27 th June. This group meets regularly with a remit to look at surveillance and how it impacts private veterinary surgeons and more generally. It was agreed to invite the Chair of the group to the next meeting of this Board.

3.2	Paul Roger has met with animal health surveillance colleagues from Northern Ireland.
3.3	Gavin Watkins provided an update on the Royal Welsh Show where the Welsh Government hosted a surveillance seminar session with APHA colleagues. A range of people attended the seminar, including farmers and a number of industry advisors. APHA provided a series of talks which were well received.

4	Update on the GB Surveillance Framework
----------	--

4.1	<p>Graeme Cooke explained that the brief from the Chief Veterinary Officers (CVOs) is that the Framework is brief and focused and incorporates the opinions of the key people involved. A UK Framework needs to be a tool to ensure that action is taken with a consistent ethos, and to provide channel for a unified commitment underpinned by 3 pillars:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strategy – the right concepts and approach. 2. The human contribution which is critical to mobilise APHA, ensure private practitioners are involved and harnessing relevant organisations. 3. Resources –for delivery including at appropriate levels as well as physical infrastructure and people with established career structures.
4.2	<p>People are central to successful animal health surveillance and those needed include project managers, change managers, world class APHA expertise, international networks and people that can create and develop partnerships in existing and new areas (e.g. fallen stock scheme, sector schemes). The Framework needs to link to the very real biosecurity objectives of Government.</p>
4.3	<p>The first step is to consider the goals of the Framework and what outcomes we are seeking. Part of this is the formation of a Scanning Surveillance Delivery Programme (SSDP) Board so that sufficient people are involved from each area to have the necessary buy in and impacts in those areas. The programme of projects is currently large, but the Board needs to prepare the ground for key needs, such as One Health, IT requirements, endemic disease and so on.</p>
4.4	<p>The move of the Surveillance Intelligence Unit (SIU) into the Science Directorate was discussed. SIU will now be in the Science Directorate along with the Veterinary Investigation Centre staff, Veterinary Investigation Officers, Scientific experts, lead scientists etc. This will help to drive improvements in effectiveness and efficiency as a single larger team, and will help with career structures and development.</p>
4.5	<p>Graeme Cooke explained that there was agreement for a coordinated and collaborative approach across all the CVOs.</p>
4.6	<p>Paul Roger welcomed this approach but remained concerned about IT provision for the development of surveillance. It was confirmed that a representative from DDTS (Defra Digital Transformation Service) has been included on the SSDP Board.</p>

5	Update on the Review of the AHSGB
----------	--

5.1	<p>The review of the AHSGB had key objectives to determine performance and evaluate contributions against the terms of reference. In light of the recent review, key recommendations have been put forward to the Animal Health and Welfare</p>
-----	---

5.3	<p>Board England and Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework Group (parent groups to the AHSGB).</p> <p>The Board confirmed that they would be very keen to receive the review for consideration as soon as it has been discussed by the CVOs.</p>
6	Measures of Surveillance
6.1	<p>Richard Irvine gave an overview of the paper provided on measures and indicators of scanning surveillance performance in England and Wales. The Board discussed the paper fully and provided further comment and suggestions for the five priority measures agreed.</p>
7	Scanning Surveillance Development Programme Update
7.1	<p>Richard Irvine provided an overview of the Scanning Surveillance Development Programme Plan and a Progress Update Report.</p>
7.3	<p>The project to renew the Surveillance webpages was delayed due to the general election, but has now completed, and in the meantime additional work was completed so that the sheep and cattle dashboards are now live, and the pig and poultry dashboards are on track for release.</p>
7.4	<p>Nigel Gibbens summarised that to an extent we are now seeing the final steps of the Surveillance 2014 (S2014) outcomes and are moving towards the future. The Scanning Surveillance Development Programme has evolved from the Surveillance Advisory Group in 2012, to S2014 developing into the '12 project plan' and then expanding to form the SSDP which will ultimately help to deliver a new surveillance system.</p>
8	Date & venue of next meeting
8.1	<p>Revised date: Tuesday 12th December, Room 104, Nobel House, London</p>
9	Any Other Business
9.1	<p>The role of Innovate UK as part of the Animal Health Research Funders Forum was discussed. This forum is chaired by Defra and attended by Gavin Watkins, who has highlighted animal health surveillance.</p>