Note of the Animal Health Surveillance Governance Board (AHSGB) Meeting 12

Date	Tuesday 27th March 2018
Location	Nobel House, Defra, London
Attendees	Chair: Paul Roger (PR) External members: Paul Burr (PB) & Ian McGrath (IM). *Ex officio* members and Policy Customers: Christine Middlemiss (CM), Graeme Cooke (GC), Christianne Glossop (CG), Gordon Hickman (GH), Richard Irvine (RI) & Mary Thomson (MT). Secretariat: Jane Tennant (JT). Sarah Burnett, Chief Architect, Data Transformation Programme
Speakers	John Seglias, Sam Roberts, Duncan Garmonsway, Firoze Salim & David Read.
Apologies	Nick Fenwick (NF),Gavin Watkins (GW) & Ellen Brown (EB)

Agenda

1. Welcome, Apologies & Conflicts of Interest Register
2. Review of Minutes, Action points and Recommendations from previous meeting
3. Update on the Surveillance Framework
4. Future Farming Workstream: overview of actions and progress in relation to Surveillance
5. Government Digital Service: Presentation and discussion by the Group Chief Digital & Information Officer
6. Chair and Independent Member updates
7. Measures and indicators of Surveillance
8. Scanning Surveillance Development Programme Update
9. Plans for future meetings of the AHSGB
10. Any Other Business

Minutes

1	Welcome, apologies & Conflicts of Interest Register
1.1	Paul Roger welcomed all to the meeting; Nick Fenwick, Gavin Watkins and Ellen Brown sent their apologies. The Conflicts of Interest Register was reviewed and agreed as correct.

2	Review of Minutes, Action points and Recommendations from previous meeting
2.1	In relation to the review of the AHSGB Graeme Cooke commented that although he was not at the last meeting he has since met with Dirk Pfeiffer (the previous Chair) who is very supportive of the review and its recommendations. The Board reiterated that they agreed with the recommendations made in the review.
2.2	All confirmed that future reviews should be agreed as appropriate to the size and complexity of the Board, but there should be an annual review of the contribution that individuals make in their roles.
2.3	Richard Irvine highlighted that the new 'Avian Dashboard' has now gone live on the Vet

Gateway: https://public.tableau.com/profile/siu.apha#!/vizhome/AvianDashboard/Overview

2.4	Christine Middlemiss noted that the GB livestock disease surveillance dashboards developed by the Surveillance Intelligence Unit were influential in Australia, well received and well presented; they are providing a means of transparency that is recognised globally.
2.5	Richard Irvine also noted that the team responsible for producing the dashboards has won an APHA team award, and the Board agreed to send a note of congratulations.
2.6	The British Veterinary Association (BVA) President has also sent his support for the dashboards and recognises their value to the profession.
2.7	Graeme Cooke noted, as a final point, that these dashboards are the first of their kind worldwide to provide surveillance data for several livestock species in a fully public and transparent way.

3	**Update on the Surveillance Framework**
3.1	Graeme Cooke explained that good progress is being made to set up and convene the UK Surveillance Forum.
3.2	Christine Middlemiss explained that a clear narrative about Animal Health and Welfare (AH&W) is needed with a thorough description of what this actually looks like. The Future Farming command paper mentions AH&W and the links to future standards and future productivity and the fact that farms need to be productive in order to trade, which means that disease, and endemic disease particularly, is very important. Government's role in this is not yet fully defined, but it is clear that expertise is crucial to all of this and so maintaining and developing expertise is vital.
3.3	The Livestock Information Programme (LiP) might provide a collection/connection point with regards to data and expertise. Richard Irvine summarised the linkages APHA's Surveillance Intelligence Unit had already made with LiP.
3.4	Further discussion considered the development and maintenance of expertise, career paths and progression; this is proactively being considered with HR and APHA as part of the Veterinary Capability and Capacity Project with the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) and the British Veterinary Association (BVA). Christine Middlemiss highlighted that EU Exit work is also drawing people in to new careers in Government.

4	**'Future Farming' Workstream: overview of actions and progress in relation to Surveillance**
4.1	The 'Future Farming' Command paper is currently out for public consultation. As part of this views on the types and requirements of using/sharing farming data will be captured
4.2	The Livestock Information Programme (LiP) is underway and key aspects of the ongoing work are: • Benchmarking • Best practices • Risk based trading • Monitoring trends of antibiotic usage and linking to trends of endemic disease.
4.3	A meeting was held on the 12th March to discuss livestock farming and data with key stakeholders. The meeting looked at barriers to sharing data with Government and the incentives to encourage data sharing. The meeting was enthusiastic and positive and a Steering Group will now be created.

4.4	Christianne Glossop asked how this ongoing 'Data' work complements the Surveillance Intelligence Unit's (SIU) work on accessing data sources. This initiative is linked with the Scanning Surveillance Development Programme (SSDP) and LiP, plus Richard Irvine and Ellen Brown are in regular collaboration through Graeme Cooke and the Animal Health and Welfare Board England (AHWBE).
4.5	Sarah Burnett, Defra's Chief Data Architect, is involved with the LiP and has liaised with Ellen Brown; she explained that a common data model is needed across all agencies of Defra to ensure that data can be shared interoperably.
4.6	The Government Digital Service (GDS) highlighted the need for agreed data standards, e.g. there's no Government standard for animal location; some agencies use CPH(H) and some use a grid reference. Ideally there should be one agreed method of recording this, and one agreed way of recording customer data.

5	**Government Digital Service: Presentation and discussion by the Group Chief Digital & Information Officer**
5.1	Presentations were given to the Board from John Seglias, Sam Roberts, Duncan Garmonsway, Firoze Salim and David Read
5.2	The Government Digital Service (GDS) highlighted three key areas: 1. Access to data (data quality, infrastructure, data sharing powers, open data). 2. Improving how we use data - data science capability, data literacy, data enabled innovation, data provided "once only". 3. Open, trusted and ethical approaches to data - new data protection law (GDPR), data ethics, cyber and data security.
5.3	Data Science: David Read 1. Need to get the central datasets for Government right. 2. New opportunities now available in recent years for data. 3. Need to consider the scope of new data acquisition methods, the rate of acquisition and the insight from linking and merging datasets. Essentially the focus is compiling many datasets and linking up small pieces of information to understand the larger picture and use to identify new information/trends.
5.4	Data Science at GDS: Sam Roberts GDS are keen to ensure better use is made of the data team, which is made up of specialists and generalists collaborating across the public sector. Objectives of the group are to: 1. Build capability 2. Improve data literacy 3. Demonstrate the opportunity 4. Tackle operational barriers Work with the Government Data Science Partnership which is linked across a huge number of organisations with over a 1000 people involved. Data science focuses on multidisciplinary teams working to an ethical framework and making use of automated Reproducible Analytic Pipelines where possible.
5.5	Defra Digital Transformation Service: John Seglias John Seglias gave an overview of the data transformation programme in Defra, which started with the Open Data initiative. DDTS priorities include: 1. Growing service management 2. Developing digital skills and teams 3. Continually improving the delivery cycle

	4. Investing in user research and insight
	5. Realigning and managing business relationships
	6. Broadening commercial and supplier management skills
	7. Empowering teams to build a shared culture
5.6	The Chair thanked the speakers and a discussion session followed.
5.7	The Surveillance Intelligence Unit (SIU) in APHA has been developing and taking forward the Scanning Surveillance Development Programme (SSDP) over the past 2 years and IT/DDTS delivery has been lagging behind demand. One of the key areas that the SSDP is focusing on is the identification of the benefits that will arise from the work. John Seglias invited the Board to contact him directly to ensure the necessary linkages are in place and to take the work forward.
5.8	JS is now involved in the 'Future Farming' consultation and work, and would like to involve data more substantially going forward, to find ways to work with industry, and to find ways to obtain data rapidly using technologically and new innovations. Alongside technological development there is also a need to ensure that rural communities have broadband to access the developments made.
5.9	The Board agreed that there is good alignment between their focus, the work of the SIU and the work of DDTS; specific actions and steps need to continue to be identified to take work forward.
5.10	*AHSGB RECOMMENDATION: This Board recommends that we link across programmes and Administrations to share data, make datasets compatible and take this initiative forward by means of small proofs of concept to understand the barriers involved and take steps to overcome them.*

6	**Chair and Independent Member updates**
6.1	Ian McGrath and Paul Roger provided updates on recent meeting attendance and progress.

7	**Measures and indicators of Surveillance**
7.1	Richard Irvine gave an overview of the report provided.
7.2	The AHSGB noted that the Livestock Demographic Data Groups (LDDGs) have made good progress in the development of denominator data and welcomed the online publication of the population reports.
7.3	The AHSGB noted the challenges of maintaining and developing veterinary and scientific expertise and the need to consider resilience, succession and career paths.
7.4	The Board noted thanks for the teams that produced the Measures and Indicators report, and the recent APHA-Award winning team that developed the disease dashboards.
7.5	Christianne Glossop highlighted that the Measures and Indicators report is a useful report that the Board are custodians of and need to consider how this is used and shared going forward; it was agreed that the report should be developed for the 4CVOs and the format could be used as a basis for the future UK Surveillance Forum meetings to consider trends across the UK.

8	**Scanning Surveillance Development Programme**
8.1	Richard Irvine provided an overview of the Scanning Surveillance Development identifying key outputs, progress and risks.

9	Plans for future meetings of the AHSGB
9.1	Next Meeting tentatively planned for Thursday 12th July, London with a further meeting in October 2018.

10	Any Other Business
10.1	None raised