

Edge Boundary Changes to National Statistics on TB in Cattle in GB effective from January 2018

Five counties that formerly straddled the High Risk and Edge Areas of England have been reallocated to the Edge Area following a bovine TB surveillance policy change adopted on 1 January 2018. They are:

- Cheshire,
- Derbyshire,
- East Sussex,
- Oxfordshire, and
- Warwickshire.

[Further details](#) of the testing policy are available.

In the National Statistics data for the High Risk Area (HRA) and Edge are now presented as per the redefined boundaries for the complete time series since 1996. Therefore, the Edge and HRA data for January 2018 onwards are not comparable with the previous monthly and quarterly releases. The last release with the old Edge basis is the Quarter 4 October to December 2017 published March 2018. The [complete datasets](#) are available for reference. These will not be updated.

The detailed county datasets continued to be published with the former HRA and Edge areas side-by-side for comparison until August 2020. Users could interrogate the data to identify trends on the pre-Jan 2018 basis for all measures apart from headline herd incidence “New herd incidents per 100 herd years at risk” as this measure is not published by county. [Table 1a](#) originally published in the [Quarter 1 January to March 2018 release](#) compares the results on both boundaries.

Table 1a comparison of herd incidence, 12 months to end

	March 16	March 17	March 18
HRA (boundary until Dec 2017)	19.0	18.4	18.8
HRA (boundary from Jan 2018)	19.9	19.1	19.4
Edge (boundary until Dec 2017)	6.0	6.9	7.8
Edge (boundary from Jan 2018)	7.2	8.1	9.0
England	10.2	10.6	10.5

[Table 1a](#) shows the effect of the change in the Edge area on the headline measure of herd incidence. The new boundary increases the herd incidence measure in both the HRA where the 5 part counties were removed, and in the Edge area where they were added. For 2018 Q1 data to March, in the HRA the value under the previous boundary was 18.8 but under the new boundary is 19.4. The part counties that were moved from HRA to Edge had higher herd incidence rate than the original Edge area but not as much as the rest of the HRA.

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