

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Animal Health and Welfare Board for England

AHWBE recommendation on future farm funding and the ministers' response

12 February 2018

Recommendation to Lord Gardiner and Minister Eustice

As part of the future post Brexit budget, the Animal Health and Welfare Board for England recommends that Ministers consider allocating funds to actively support industry in its drive to raise the health and welfare status of the nation's farmed animals.

The AHWBE believes that funding for a transitional period would make a significant impact in enabling industry to develop a coordinated approach to addressing disease, and delivering the Government's goal of maintaining the high level of welfare that currently exists. It would materially assist the sector in responding to EU Exit, and support a growth in productivity.

Through a pathway of enhanced animal health, the industry would see improved competitiveness and productivity, an enhanced national reputation to meet the changed trade environment, and deliver wider public benefits such as lower antimicrobial use and improved biosecurity.

Ministers' response

We welcome the Board's recommendation and share their ambition to improve the health and welfare of the nation's farmed animals.

We intend to consult widely with stakeholders ahead of publishing plans for an Agriculture Bill, and will take the recommendation into account when considering how agriculture funding can best be used to secure a better future for UK agriculture and for the environment.