

## **Making highly pathogenic Porcine Epidemic Diarrhoea virus (PEDv) a notifiable disease**

**Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs**

**RPC rating: fit for purpose**

### **Description of proposal**

The Department proposes to amend the Animal Health Act (1981) to make highly pathogenic Porcine Epidemic Diarrhoea virus (PEDv) a notifiable disease in England. This will require pig keepers and specialist pig vets to report suspicion or confirmation of the disease to the Department's Animal and Plant Health Agency. The proposal will also enable the Department to make available to the public information about the location and contact details of those reporting suspected PEDv.

### **Impacts of proposal**

The Department states that there are approximately 7,800 pig farms and 175 specialist pig vets in England. The Department expects farmers and vets to be familiar already with requirements relating to notifiable diseases such as foot and mouth disease and classical swine fever. Farmers and vets will be informed about the addition of PEDv to the list of notifiable diseases by letter and through websites and articles in the trade press. The Department calculates familiarisation with the change will take ten minutes for pig farmers and specialist vets, imposing a one-off cost of £21,790.

Based on evidence from the US, the Department assumes that 10 per cent of pig farms would be affected in the event of an outbreak. Using this assumption, the Department estimates that the reporting costs for farmers and vets combined amount to £2,100 per outbreak. The Department's estimated equivalent annual net cost (EANCB) is based on the assumption that there will be one outbreak during the ten year appraisal period.

There may be indirect benefits to pig farmers, arising both from the reporting obligation enabling action to be taken to reduce PEDv spreading between farms and greater effectiveness with which the relevant industry body can identify, advise and support affected farmers. There may be indirect transfers to vets from identified farms and a range of indirect reputational consequences for infected, suspected and

other pig farms. None of these impacts is a direct consequence of the regulation and the Department does not quantify them.

The RPC can validate the estimated EANCB of £0.003 million.

## Quality of submission

The Department has addressed the concerns raised by the RPC at consultation stage. It has provided consultation evidence that supports the estimated familiarisation costs. It also confirms that the proposal will not impose any additional biosecurity or livestock tracking requirements to mitigate the disease after notification.

The proposal has significant industry support and both consultation evidence and international experience indicate that the industry is likely to benefit from the proposal.

The Department does not discuss in depth, or quantify, any of the indirect impacts that may result from additional actions taken in response to the notification requirement. The RPC accepts that it would be disproportionate to quantify indirect and highly uncertain impacts, but the IA could benefit from a greater discussion in this area.

The Department could also have considered the applicability of US evidence to the UK, given the differences between the two countries in the scale of the pork industry, biosecurity and existing incentives to inform others of the presence of the disease. For instance, the Department could have included evidence from alternative countries, such as Canada, which was discussed at consultation stage.

## Initial departmental assessment

Classification	IN
Equivalent annual net cost to business (EANCB)	£0.003 million
Business net present value	£0.024 million

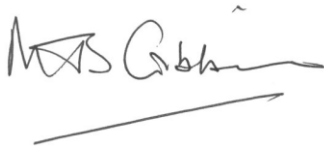
## RPC assessment

Classification	IN
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Opinion: validation stage IA  
Origin: domestic  
RPC reference number: RPC-15-DEFRA-3092(1)  
Date of implementation: not provided

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EANCB – RPC validated	£0.003 million
Small and micro business assessment	Not required (fast track low-cost regulation)



**Michael Gibbons CBE**, Chairman