

Animal and Plant Health Agency
**Department for Environment, Food and Rural
Affairs**
**Non-qualifying regulatory provision assurance
statement: confirmed**

The Regulatory Policy Committee (RPC) is content that, on the basis of the summary information provided, none of the measures or activities covered in the summary document should be considered as a qualifying regulatory provision for the purposes of the business impact target. This statement does not provide a detailed view of any specific activity in the regulator's summary document. Nor does it comment on any activities not included in the summary. Some activities might, however, have been the subject of separate assessments of qualifying regulatory provisions.

Comments on the non-qualifying regulatory provision summary

The regulator provides a description of the different elements of its casework (pp. 3-4). More closely relating this description to their figures relating to their casework activities (p.5) could have better supported their categorisation of these measures as *de minimis*.

Regulatory Policy Committee

Regulator: Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA)

Business Impact Target Reporting Period Covered: 8 June 2017 to 20 June 2018


Excluded Category*	Summary of measure(s), including any impact data where available
De minimis (measures with an EANDCB below +/- £5 million)	<p>CPH England Project</p> <p>In July 2016 APHA launched a new service for livestock keepers to register their use of temporary land. The first 18 months of the service were a transition period as livestock keepers were moved from the old to the new arrangements. Given the lack of data on temporary land used by keepers, the first year of the new process was a learning curve. During the first busy spring movement period (Apr-June 2017) some keepers had to wait up to 2 weeks for their applications to be approved. Since that time, APHA have adapted process and plan for how better to meet customers' needs during busy periods. Feedback from livestock keepers and from APHA teams was taken on board and a significant amount of time and money has been invested in making improvements. Changes to processes, guidance and the supporting IT have all helped APHA to reduce turn-around times. During the same Spring period in 2018, APHA received an even higher volume of applications than in 2017, but importantly 90% of applicants were resolved within 1 day, with 100% within 2 days (apart for those involving TB restrictions, where more detailed veterinary assessments are required).</p> <p>The Field Activity Programme</p> <p>The Field Activity programme is a DEFRA programme which was set up in 2015 in part to meet a manifesto commitment to reduce regulatory burden on farmers and reducing annual farm visits.</p> <p>During the qualifying period (June 2017 to June 2018):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Field Activity Programme delivered projects relating to field services management, earned recognition and risk profiling. • Savings will be realised by transforming the way field based services are delivered and co-ordinated to be more efficient and effective. Deploying new in field mobile technology is enabling staff to carry out activities in the field enabling the optimisation of resources. • The Field Activity programme has observed that Defra agencies and Local authorities have removed approximately 13,000 farm visits since 2014/15 which has helped to reduce red tape burden on farmers. • The Field Activity Programme is directly contributing to the overall removal of farm visits through combining and co-ordinating inspection visits. This has enabled approximately 1,000 inspection visits to be removed. Combining and co-

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Excluded Category*	Summary of measure(s), including any impact data where available
	<p>ordinating inspections reduces the regulatory burden on farmers and reduces the cost of inspection visits.</p> <p>Animal Disease Tracking System APHA has implemented the Animal Disease Tracking System (ADTS), an online application tool that allows private veterinary customers of APHA’s laboratory diagnostic services to make submissions on line and select appropriate tests in order to monitor disease surveillance on animals under their care. This service allows Private Veterinary Surgeons to track their submissions, receive the results both on screen and as a PDF report, retrieve details of their farm clients in the system, find tests and information, and directly obtain test advice. Previously, these processes were via paper submissions.</p> <p>Since June 2017 APHA has seen a small increase in uptake with between 7-10% of submissions coming via the digital service per week (it was around 5-6% prior to June 2017) and there has been an increase in registered practices from 115 in June 17 to 150 to date.</p> <p>Civil Emergencies (Disease Outbreaks) Since 8th June 2017 APHA has dealt with two instances of positive Bluetongue disease from imported animals resulting in restrictions being placed on both herds whilst additional surveillance testing was carried out.</p> <p>APHA dealt with plant health incidents involving Potato Ring rot in imported seed potatoes and Potato Brown rot in irrigation water. There were 2 findings of Asian Hornets which pose a serious threat to UK native bee colonies and action taken in regards to the marketing of unauthorised ornamental GM fish.</p> <p>APHA Casework No activities listed in this section represent a change in the burden of regulation placed on business.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Licensing, registration and inspection</u> - APHA licences, approves or registers a range of premises, such as markets (and other animal gatherings including shows), animal by-products plants (including rendering facilities, knackery yards, hunt kennels, maggot farms), quarantine centres, nurseries and other plant production sites, designated inspection points and egg producers. We licence movements of animals, the

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	<p>export of animals, animal by-products, plants and plant products, the import of animals, plants and bees and trade in bovine and porcine semen and embryos. APHA issues authorisations to hauliers for the transport of animals. We licence trade in endangered species and register certain birds kept in captivity. These licensing activities are supported by risk-based inspection regimes, often in partnership with local authorities and are designed to ensure ongoing compliance with the conditions of approval for the premises and activities concerned. We inspect farms and other holdings in response to reports about disease risk or conditions of animal welfare and to check compliance with welfare standards for the purposes of the single farm payment scheme. APHA inspects zoos, museums and other establishments that hold collections of endangered species.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surveillance and testing - APHA undertakes surveillance to detect the presence or spread of animal diseases, for example bovine tuberculosis and salmonella, through testing samples taken on farm, at abattoirs, markets and at animal by-products plants. APHA performs surveillance to detect plant and bee pests and diseases to measure their spread, this is achieved through inspection and sampling on nurseries, in public spaces and in the natural environment. We also take samples as part of our activities to regulate the trade in endangered species, for example to establish the species or to verify that an animal has been captive bred. <p>The majority of animal health and welfare legislation that APHA regulates is enforced by the Local Authorities who are the named statutory enforcers and prosecuting authority.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • APHA referred 828 cases to the RPA for consideration of imposing cross compliance penalties for those farmers who failed to TB test on time within their testing window. Severity of the penalty was dependant on the

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	<p>number of days overdue the test was when it was completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Egg Marketing and Salmonella Controls: 34 Penalty Notices totalling £27,253 and 13 warning letters issued. • Defra Investigation Service (DIS) referrals – 8th June 2017 to date; there have been 13 cases referred to DIS. <p>Education, Communications and Promotions APHA have participated in 43 Events in this qualifying period (8th June 2017 to date) for education, training and communication purposes with industry and stakeholders. The enclosed list details them;</p>  <p>Copy of EXTERNAL FILE</p>

*This column will be updated with the other exemption categories once the Business Impact Target has been announced. Complete the summary box as ‘Following consideration of the exclusion category there are no measures for the reporting period that qualify for the exclusion.’ where this is appropriate.