

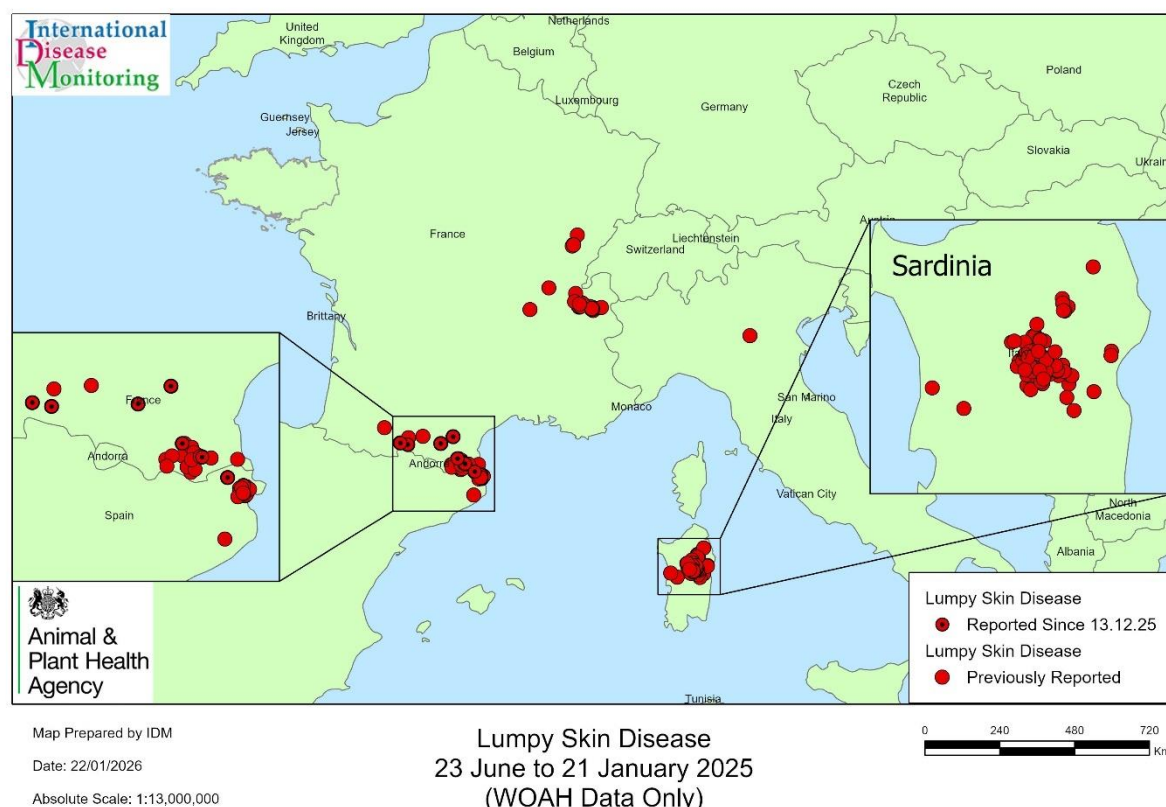
## Updated Outbreak Assessment #8

# Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) in Europe

13 January 2026

### Disease report

Since our report on 15 December, France has reported 4 additional outbreaks of LSD in departments along the border with Spain. Spain has reported one more outbreak of LSD near the border with France. The last LSD outbreak in Spain was reported on 24 October 2025. Italy has not reported any outbreaks since our last update. The last outbreak in Sardinia was reported on 5 November 2025. Our previous outbreak assessment of the situation can be found at: [Lumpy skin disease in Europe - GOV.UK](#). Given the reduced number of outbreaks reported recently, the concentration of outbreaks along the border between France and Spain, and the fact that no outbreaks of LSD have been reported in Brittany after cattle potentially exposed to LSD were traced to that area, the risk of incursion into the UK has reduced to **low (rare but can occur)**.



**Figure 1: Reports of Lumpy Skin Disease in Europe.** The map shows outbreaks of LSD reported to WOA in Europe from 23 June to 21 January. Two outbreaks (in Pyrénées-Orientales and Aude) included in the last POA are on this map as “new” based on the WOA report date.

## Situation assessment

The initial reports of LSD in Europe in July were the first in Europe since 2018 (according to WOAHA reports). There has been spread of the disease in North Africa since July 2024, in Algeria and Tunisia. Find our outbreak assessments for other regions: [Lumpy skin disease in North Africa and East Asia - GOV.UK](#)

Phylogenetic analysis on samples from France and Italy has demonstrated that the causative agent for LSD in both of these outbreaks is genetically very closely related, and they are also closely related to the 2018 Nigeria strain ([EURL](#)). Sequences from the more recent outbreaks are not publicly available. However, due to a lack of genomic data from North African outbreaks (such as Libya, Algeria and Tunisia), it is difficult to fully understand the virus spread and evolution.

LSD is a pox virus mainly affecting cattle and water buffalo, which is notifiable to the WOAHA (Eom, Lee and Yoo, 2023). The virus is mainly transmitted by mechanical transmission by biting insect vectors.

The mortality rate is relatively low (typically 1-5%) (WOAHA) but may reach between 20 to 85% in naïve and young animals (Ochwo, VanderWaal, Munsey, et al., 2018). Infection decreases milk production, causes weight loss, infertility, damages the hides (WOAHA, 2025) and affects export trade.

There has never been a case of LSD reported within the United Kingdom (England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland). Lumpy skin disease is difficult to control and eradicate in livestock by stamping out alone and often requires vaccination to eradicate the disease from the national herd.

### Spain

Spain detected a new outbreak of LSD on 23 December 2025, which was confirmed by the [Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries \(MAPA\)](#) on 7 January 2026. The outbreak occurred further north than previous outbreaks, closer to the border with France but within the previously established restricted area. The outbreak was detected on a farm with 106 cattle. Vaccination on the farm took place in October 2025, but due to logistics, not all animals on the farm were vaccinated. Testing determined four of the unvaccinated animals were positive for LSD. The total number of outbreaks in Spain is now 18.

An emergency vaccination campaign began in Spain on 9 October 2025, after three LSD outbreaks had been confirmed in the country. Vaccination in Spain is progressing well, with over 95% coverage in the restricted zones. Vaccination across all of Catalonia is surpassing 60%, and vaccination in the neighbouring Aragon, which is outside the restricted zone and has not experienced an outbreak, reaching nearly 80%.

### France

Since our last update, France has reported 4 additional outbreaks to WOAHA ([WAHIS event 6548](#)). One outbreak occurred in both Pyrénées-Orientales and Haute-Garonne. These were reported on 22 December 2025. Two outbreaks occurred in Ariège, reported on 2 January and 12 January 2026. The total number of LSD outbreaks reported from France is now at 117. According to France's [Ministry of](#)

[Agriculture, Agri-food and Food Sovereignty](#), vaccination in the 10 departments in the southwest along the border with Spain had reached over 89% as of 12 January 2026. This increased to 94.8% of herds in these departments by 20 January 2026. As 20 January, all restricted and vaccination zones remain in place in France in the departments bordering Spain.

According to media reports, on 12 January 2026, [the French Minister of Agriculture for France declared that there were no active cases of LSD in the country](#).

### Italy

Italy has not reported a new outbreak in the country since 5 November 2025 ([WAHIS event 6568](#)). According to [December PAFF presentations](#), vaccination reached 97.8% of establishments with cattle in Sardinia, with 96.4% of eligible animals being vaccinated. The vaccination campaign in Sardinia was concluded on the 27 of November. The EU [Commissioning Implement decision 2025/2424](#) outlines that protection zones in Sardinia will remain in place until 27 February 2026 and surveillance zones until 16 March 2026.

### Impact for Great Britain

Incursion of LSD into Great Britain could occur either by importing infected live cattle, or mosquitos or biting flies carrying the virus entering the country and infecting animals present in the area.

No live cattle imports have been identified from any of these countries. In response to the outbreaks, the UK suspended imports of several bovine commodities, including live animals, germplasm, raw milk and raw milk products, offal, hides and skin (unless treated), and animal by products (unless undergoing specific heat treatment) from Italy, France and Spain. More information can be found on the gov.uk page [Imports, exports and EU trade of animals and animal products: topical issues](#).

In addition to this, an [EU wide ban is in place for personal imports](#) of fresh meat, meat products, milk, dairy products, colostrum, colostrum products and certain composite products and animal by-products of ruminant and porcine origin. This is in response to multiple disease outbreaks across the EU. These special measures were applied from 18 December 2025 until revoked or amended and replace earlier safeguard declarations. Live animals, germinal products and untreated wool, hair, skins and hides are not permitted for personal import under separate rules. Those found with these items will need to either surrender them at the border or will have them seized and destroyed.

Given the reduced number of outbreaks being reported from France and the fact no outbreaks have been reported in the north of the country after tracing activities identified cattle potentially exposed to LSD being moved to Brittany, the risk of incursion of LSD to Great Britain has reduced from medium to **low (rare but can occur)**. We are not receiving live cattle from the affected areas, and LSD has not been reported in the north of France where vector incursion to Great Britain may be possible, and vector populations will be reduced in colder weather. However, vector incursion is impossible to fully mitigate against, and keepers and veterinarians

should familiarise themselves with LSD clinical signs and report suspicion appropriately.

## Conclusion

Outbreaks of LSD have continued in previously reported regions of France, although the number of new outbreaks appears to be reducing. Spain reported their first outbreak, along the border with France, in October 2025. Italy has not reported an outbreak since 5 November 2025.

Since the 1 June 2024 there has been no trade in live bovine animals from Italy, France or Spain nor bovine germplasm collected in these countries. Restrictions have been placed on specific bovine products from these countries, in light of the LSD outbreaks mentioned above. The lifting or maintaining of restrictions are under constant review depending on information that is received about the outbreaks.

Considering the location of current outbreaks and the fact outbreaks have not been reported in the north of France, the current risk level of incursion of LSD has reduced from medium to **low (rare but can occur)**. We are currently mitigating against disease incursion by the restricted trade in cattle and bovine germplasm from these countries, as well as restrictions on personal imports.

We will continue to monitor the situation.

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