

ANIMAL DISEASE SURVEILLANCE GOVERNANCE BOARD

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Animal Disease Surveillance Governance Board is constituted to advise Defra and Welsh Government on the best use of the funding they make available to provide England and Wales with an effective animal health surveillance system which retains the confidence of the animal keeping sectors and enables Government to meet its national and international obligations. It is a partnership board between Government and Industry recognising that animal keepers and allied sectors including the veterinary profession are providers of data and intelligence into the system, and are beneficiaries of the reports and advice that are produced. Thus the benefits of scanning surveillance are jointly owned reflecting the shared responsibility and risk ownership of changes in animal disease trends and profiles. It is intended that the structure, membership and actions of the Animal Disease Surveillance Governance Board reflect this.

Key Responsibilities

Responsible for providing strategic advice to the Animal Health and Welfare Board for England and the Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework Group. The Board will represent the animal disease surveillance requirements, interests and contributions of the veterinary profession, animal keepers, livestock industries, wider food chain and Government, to ensure that the surveillance systems develop to meet the needs of all who benefit from them. The Board's primary responsibility and focus is "scanning surveillance" but the Board will be mindful of the linkages and dependencies between "scanning surveillance" and other surveillance activities.

Accountable to Policy Directors responsible for new and re-emerging animal disease (DCVO UK and CVO Wales) for advice and guidance on the development of animal disease surveillance strategy: advising on and challenging the development of surveillance systems so that they are fit for purpose, continue to be reviewed and updated in light of developing science, are supported by the appropriate expertise, and for recommending the priorities for surveillance in light of available funding, and the impacts of changing budgets, risks and threats.

Providing assurance to the Chief Executive of the Animal & Plant Health Agency that the commission for surveillance activities to be delivered or coordinated by APHA are aligned to the surveillance priorities agreed by the Board on behalf of Defra and Welsh Government.

Responsible for providing assurance to Policy Directors (DCVO UK and CVO Wales) that the surveillance delivered is based on effective use of intelligence to identify threats, and that good intelligence analysis and communication is in place to enable response by both government and animal keeping sectors.

Responsible for providing leadership and direction to delivery bodies, animal keeping and allied sectors and the veterinary and pathology professions to promote engagement with the continuing development of scanning surveillance in England and Wales, including promotion of responsibility and cost sharing, and that the surveillance system is aligned to and supports industry needs. The Board will ensure that data collected from scanning surveillance is subject to appropriate analysis and scrutiny, and the intelligence generated is utilised, both by the Veterinary Risk Group to inform Chief Veterinary Officers of emerging threats, and by Sector groups to influence and warn the industry of emerging problems.

Scope

The Board will be responsible for scanning surveillance in all animal species but will initially focus on the scanning surveillance of farmed livestock. This position will be subject to regular review. The Board has no statutory function.

Governance

The Board will be a subgroup of a combined college of the Animal Health & Welfare Board for England and the Welsh Government Animal Health and Welfare Framework Group, acting jointly and in equal measure. It will be accountable to Defra and Welsh Government through this college. It will be established as a temporary advisory committee, for a period of three years, with its effectiveness and future to be reviewed by this college in consultation with Policy Directors after no more than two and a half years.

Chair

The Chair will be appointed by the Chairs of the Animal Health and Welfare Board for England and the Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework Group following an open selection in accordance with OCPA principles.

Membership

The Board will comprise the Chair, four independent members, the UK Chief Veterinary Officer (ex officio) and the APHA Head of Scanning Surveillance (ex officio).

Independent Members of the board will be appointed to provide leadership, combined with knowledge of veterinary surveillance, disease investigation science and the industries/populations protected by the surveillance system. They will therefore be representative of the industries being served, but not representatives of any particular organisation. Selection will follow OCPA principles, be undertaken by the college and the Board Chair.

Review of Terms of Reference

The Board will review these terms of reference at its first meeting, and annually thereafter. Any changes will be agreed by the Policy Directors in England and Wales.

They will also be reviewed by Policy Directors in the light of any changes to the parent Boards.

Secretariat

The Secretariat will be provided by the Animal and Plant Health Agency.

Background: Government Structures for Scanning Surveillance

The Senior Responsible Owners for Scanning Surveillance are the Policy Directors:

The Defra Deputy Chief Veterinary Officer, Alick Simmons (England)

The Chief Veterinary Officer (Wales), Christianne Glossop

They are supported and advised by the Animal Disease Surveillance Governance Board.

The Lead delivery agency for scanning surveillance is the Animal and Plant Health Agency, who focus on the overall intelligence analysis, and data collection for farmed animal and wildlife species. This includes provision of the secretariat for the Animal Disease Surveillance Governance Board.

The APHA Head of Scanning Surveillance is responsible for leading the surveillance intelligence analysis and focusing the operational surveillance effort effectively.

The Species Expert Groups are responsible for collating and analysing information about risks in specific groups of animal species and escalating threats to the Veterinary Risk Group. They cover Great Britain, and include experts from outwith Government.

The Veterinary Risk Group is a cross government official group who assess the emerging risks and issues, the level of threat they pose, and the appropriate mitigation, escalating any uncontrolled, significant risk to the Chief Veterinary Officers and SROs across the United Kingdom.