



Department
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Food & Rural Affairs

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Animal Health and Welfare Board for England

Annual report 2014 to 2015

November 2015



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Any enquiries regarding this document/publication should be sent to us at:

Animal Health and Welfare Board for England Secretariat

Area 5B Nobel House

17 Smith Square

London

SW1P 3JR

Email: AHWBEsecretariat@defra.gsi.gov.uk

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Introduction from George Eustice MP, Minister of State for Farming, Food and the Marine Environment

I'm pleased to introduce the Animal Health and Welfare Board for England's 2015 Annual Report. The year just past has been a very eventful one not least because of the general election. I am delighted to have returned to Defra under the new Government now as Minister of State for Farming, Food and the Marine Environment, working once again with the Rt Hon Elizabeth Truss as Secretary of State. Since the last AHWBE Annual Report, the Department has overseen the creation of the Animal & Plant Health Agency; launched the Animal Recording & Movements Service database (ARAMS), which has had a high and growing volume of usage in its first year; made significant changes to the EU Pet Travel Regulations; continued negotiations with our EU counterparts to shape an EU Animal Health Regulation that we hope will be beneficial to the UK; and led highly effective responses to the Avian Influenza outbreaks in Yorkshire in late 2014 and in Lancashire in Summer 2015. These are, of course, just a few of the achievements we can be proud of, and I am grateful to the Board members for their input and for sharing their knowledge and expertise with policy officials.

Improving animal health and welfare is a key element of delivering our priorities as well as contributing to the Government's wider agenda for the economy, for example by supporting exports and competitiveness in the food chain.

The Animal Health and Welfare Board for England has already been an important way of bringing industry expertise and perspectives into government and helping government communicate and engage animal-keepers in working towards our common aims. I look forward to working not only with the AHWBE, but with everyone who promotes animal health and welfare, in the coming year.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "George Eustice". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

George Eustice, Minister of State



Introduction from Michael Seals MBE, Chairman of the Animal Health and Welfare Board for England

Welcome to the latest Animal Health and Welfare Board for England Annual Report. We've extended the period it covers in order to be able to include some views from our Ministers under the new Government elected in May. You can find more information about their vision and strategy for the department later on in this report.

In my opinion, after three years of successfully building expertise and relationships both inside and outside Defra, it's time for the AHWBE to step up a gear. This will help us help the Government deliver its vision for Animal Health and Welfare in these challenging times. My aspiration is that the AHWBE will engage in policy recommendations for government and industry that will achieve a higher health status and greater industry responsibility (where applicable), and support government in carrying policy through to delivery. It will sustain its current role as a source of support and advice to Defra, alongside constructive challenge, with reduced numbers of Board meetings but building on its collaborative role within policy teams. We intend that the Board's focus will be amended to include a more outward-facing stance as regards industry offering leadership, communication and (where possible) coordination where such assistance is requested.

The AHWBE has established relationships across all animal keeping sectors that will enable it to support the Government's strategy; elements include promoting high health status, productivity and competitiveness in all livestock sectors and good animal welfare in both food and companion animals. I intend that we should pursue this through promotion of sector-led and sector-delivered initiatives, supported by Government where only Government can act.

I would like the Board to engage more with delivery teams within APHA to offer support and insights into what, pragmatically, will work more through and with the Sector Councils. The AHWBE should maintain relationships with its equivalents across the Devolved Administrations; the Welsh Animal Health and Welfare Framework Group, and the new NI and Scottish equivalents that are being established.

The Board will offer advice on the funding and governance of the delivery of the TB eradication strategy and provide support through advocating and communicating to industry the need for changed responsibilities. TBEAG, a sub-group of AHWBE, will be central to this work (a piece on TBEAG's work is included in this report at p.23).

Similarly the challenge of ensuring adequate surveillance for disease and harnessing the work of the industry through the Surveillance Governance Board (the AHWBE's other sub-group), will be central.

Underpinning these ambitions is a commitment to continuous improvement and ever greater efficiency of Board working – we will reduce the number of our meetings and share our secretariat support with other groups.

Referring back to last year's Annual Report you will see that I trailed a number of these ideas and so what I have outlined here represents the continuous evolution of the AHWBE to respond to the changing situation of English livestock keeping working within the steer given to us by the elected government.

We should not underestimate the scale of the challenge ahead. Defra and APHA have already had to make significant savings and more will follow. There will inevitably be changes in how government works and the scale of the support it can offer. This leaves us, the animal keepers, with both a task and an opportunity. As government prioritises where it spends its finite resources we can step in to shape and deliver future services. I look forward very much to working on these important issues in the year to come.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Seals." The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Michael Seals, MBE, Chair of the Animal Health and Welfare Board for England

About the Board

The Animal Health and Welfare Board for England has continually evolved throughout its existence adapting itself and its ways of working to the issues of the day.

The AHWBE met for the first time in November 2011. It was originally established to bring external experience and perspective into the heart of the policy-making process. The Board's remit contrasted strongly with the traditional Whitehall model, bringing together independent non-executives with relevant knowledge and skills, and senior government officials under the independent chairmanship of Michael Seals, to provide Departmental advice to Defra Ministers on all strategic animal health and welfare policy matters relating to kept animals (excluding the welfare of zoo and circus animals) in England.

The Board's Terms of Reference as originally established are publicly available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ahwbe-terms-of-reference>. Last year, feedback from colleagues in industry showed, that the Board's role needed to be better communicated and therefore the following explanation of the Board's remit and role was developed:

The Board's remit and role¹

The Board is a principal source of Departmental advice to Defra Ministers on all strategic health and welfare matters relating to all kept animals in England. The Board's authority derives from Defra Ministers and it works within the policy framework they set.

The Board's chief responsibilities are:

- Developing strategic policy and budget priorities within the vision and parameters laid out by Defra Ministers;
- Leading and building partnership working between government and industry, working towards shared responsibility for cost and the delivery of services;
- Building capability, capacity and engagement in the sectors of industry allowing them to engage in policy development and service delivery.

In addition, the Board may assess:

- the risk of threats from animal disease and how to manage these;
- surveillance and research priorities;
- the implementation of policy, and value for money achieved by the relevant Defra agencies and other delivery organisations;

¹ As published in the 2014 Annual Report:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/311765/ahwbe-annual-report-13-14.pdf

- the effectiveness and proportionality of the regulatory framework;
- the operational plans of the Animal and Plant Health Agency in relation to animal health and welfare in England and the delivery of those plans;
- the contingency plans for dealing with new disease outbreaks and for reviewing these plans on an annual basis (or as circumstances require).

Working with Defra

The AHWBE works closely with the officials covering animal health, welfare and disease policy in Defra. Its members build relations with policy officials and make themselves available for informal discussion as well as formal consideration of papers.

The full Board meets four to six times a year, unless dictated otherwise by business need, but much of the most important Board work is done in smaller task and finish groups with Defra policy teams between meetings. Sub groups are able to agree time critical issues amongst themselves or by correspondence, again as dictated by business need. The Board is served by a secretariat based in Defra. The secretariat will seek to drive down costs and generate efficiencies in running the Board, wherever possible.

Membership

Board membership is four executive members (Defra's animal health and welfare policy Directors, the Chief Veterinary Officer and the Chief Executive for the Animal and Plant Health Agency) and six non-executive members. Each non-executive member is responsible for engaging with a defined portfolio of internal and external stakeholders (tables 1 and 2).

During the year the Board recruited three new members replacing Jonathan Rushton and Mark Tufnell. We are very grateful to Jonathan and Mark for their contribution to the Board during their time as non-executive Board members, and wish them well for the future.

Yvonne Ball, Claire Horton and Mike Clark were selected for their collective breadth of industry knowledge, experience and influence as well as their impressive individual capabilities within their specialist sector. Their appointments ensure the Board has a wide reach across the sectors.

Non-Executive members

Michael Seals MBE, Chairman

Michael Seals farms 250 acres of arable crops with a pedigree South Devon herd in South Derbyshire. He is Chairman of the National Fallen Stock Company. Michael has previously been a trustee of the British Horse Society, sat on the National Farmers Union (NFU) Council and was Chairman of the NFU National Food Standards Committee.

Yvonne Ball

Yvonne is a barrister with a PhD in balancing the public interests of investigating wrongdoing and the protection of human rights and is a member of the CLA Policy Committee. She brings experience of working across Whitehall.

Mike Clark

Mike Clark is a poultry director at the Minster Veterinary Practice Ltd. The Practice is a clinical associate at Nottingham Veterinary School where he is an Honorary Associate Professor of Poultry Medicine. Though primarily a poultry medicine clinician Mike has an interest in veterinary and poultry business and was awarded his MBA in 2011. He sits on numerous veterinary and poultry committees and chairs the NFU Poultry Health Committee.

Richard Davis

Richard Davis farms 104 hectares in North Bedfordshire; recently the farm policy and type of cows being farmed has been dramatically altered. The farm has 210 crossbred cows giving 5,500 litres of milk per year from a forage-based diet.

Richard is a Farmer-Director of First Milk Ltd and chaired the First Milk Sustainability Group for six years. He is committed to improving dairy cow health and welfare and is a Privy Council Lay Member at the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons. Richard chaired the Red Tractor Dairy Farm Assurance Scheme for six years and was vice chairman of AHDB DairyCo for five years.

Claire Horton

Claire joined Battersea Dogs & Cats Home as Chief Executive in June 2010. She has spent 27 years working in both the commercial and not-for-profit sectors, the past 12 years at CEO and Board level.

Claire has over 30 years' experience in managing large scale animal charities. Specialist areas include dogs, cats and equines. In her current role with Battersea Claire works extensively across the animal sector with multiple stakeholders and is the Chairman of the Association of Dogs & Cats Homes (ADCH), the membership body representing over 120 large and small animal charities UK-wide. She is a founder member and sits on the steering committee of the Canine & Feline Sector Group (CFSG), is a member of the Greyhound Forum, the Micro-chipping Alliance and the Pet Advertising Advisory Group.

Stewart Houston

Stewart recently stood down as a Board member of the Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board and as Chair of the British Pig Executive. He has also been Chairman of the National Pig Association. He has been a pig producer since 1970, is Managing Director of Microware Pig Systems and has had high level roles in the National Farmers Union. Stewart was awarded a CBE for his contribution to agriculture and is a recipient of the David Black Award for a sustained contribution to the pig sector.

Tim Morris

Professor Tim Morris is a science and welfare advisor to a number of organisations; involved in thoroughbred racing and breeding, other equine organisations, and commercial organisations related to animal care and use, as well as a Trustee of several not for profit organisations. He is a veterinary surgeon with a PhD in livestock reproduction and has held a large number of leadership roles in veterinary professional organisations, commerce, industry bodies, animal science and welfare charities.

Stuart Roberts

Stuart stepped down from the Board in order to pursue other work having attended his last meeting on 3 March 2015.

Stuart Roberts farms 500 hectares in Hertfordshire and Kent. The farms consist of organic cereal and suckler beef enterprises. Stuart worked part time for the UK's biggest beef processor, ABP UK until early 2015. He is the former Chief Executive of the British Meat Processors Association and prior to that spent eight years in the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, the Food Standards Agency and the Department of Environment,

Food and Rural Affairs, where he was involved with many aspects of livestock and animal health policy. Stuart has a degree in Agriculture and Business and is a Nuffield Farming Scholar. He is also a Board Member of Assured Food Standards, and a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Butchers.

Executive members

Nigel Gibbens

Nigel Gibbens is the UK's Chief Veterinary Officer. He was appointed in May 2008 following previous experience in the State Veterinary Service and in policy roles on international trade, TSE research, surveillance and controls, animal welfare and international relations co-ordination for Defra's Food and Farming Group. Prior to joining the UK government service in 1990, Nigel worked in private practice in his early career and in Government veterinary services in Belize and Yemen.

Chris Hadkiss

Chris Hadkiss was appointed Chief Executive of the Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency (AHVLA) in January 2013 and continues the role in the reformed Animal & Plant Health Agency (APHA). Prior to this, he was Executive Director in charge of Operations at the Forensic Science Service. Chris started his career with the Metropolitan Police Forensic Science Laboratory, working on a wide range of criminal investigations for both UK Police and foreign governments. During his career, he was heavily involved in the creation of the National DNA database. He also spent time working as the Advisor on Forensic Science at the Central Finance and Policy Group of the Home Office and then as an independent forensic consultant.

Lee McDonough

Lee McDonough attended her last Board meeting on 3 March 2015 – her successor will take up the post shortly.

Lee McDonough, until April 2015, was the Defra Director for Animal Health & Welfare (Disease Control) Directorate. Her remit covered animal welfare; bovine TB; disease response capability; animal movements and ID and corporate customer for the Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency. Lee is a career civil servant, and has worked in a number of policy areas before joining Animal Health and Welfare including nuclear safety and environmental radioactivity policy, food safety and marine policy. Lee has taken up a post at the Department for Energy and Climate Change.

Alick Simmons

Alick Simmons is the UK's Deputy Chief Veterinary Officer. He was appointed to Defra in 2007 and has number of policy responsibilities including zoonoses controls, aquaculture health, surveillance, research and risk assessment. In 2012, he became Director for Plant Health.

Apart from a spell in private practice in the UK early in his career, Alick has spent most of his career involved in livestock disease control, animal welfare and food safety at a national level. From 2004 – 2007 he was the Food Standards Agency's Veterinary Director. Previously, he has held a variety of policy, advisory and operational positions in the UK and overseas involving the control of animal diseases with public health and economic significance.

Table 1 Board member portfolios up to March 2015

Sitting above this table and the one that follows, Michael Seals, as Chair of the AHWBE has overarching responsibility for strategy and relations with farming organisations and across Whitehall.

<i>Non-Executive</i>	Stuart Roberts	Tim Morris	Stewart Houston	Richard Davis	Claire Horton	Mike Clark	Yvonne Ball
<i>Lead sectors</i>	Beef Camelids	Sheep & Goats Equidae	Pigs	Dairy	Companion Animals Exotics & Zoo animals	Poultry	Aquaculture
<i>Lead Issues/ Interests</i>	Bovine TB (TBEAG) Auctioneers	Welfare	Animal Disease: <i>Contingency planning</i> <i>Surveillance</i> <i>Novel diseases</i> <i>Endemics</i> <i>Compensation & Insurance</i>	EU Animal Health Reg	ID & Traceability Assurance & Self- Regulation	Welfare ID & Traceability EU Animal Health Reg	Vets Consumers Public Health Global Trade: Importers & Exporters, Animal By- products
<i>Lead themes</i>	Partnership	Comms	Sector councils	Evidence and R&D	Comms	Evidence and R&D	Partnership

Table 2 Board member portfolios from April 2015 onwards

<i>Non-Executive</i>	Tim Morris	Stewart Houston	Richard Davis	Claire Horton	Mike Clark	Yvonne Ball
<i>Lead sectors</i>	Sheep & Goats Equidae	Pigs	Cattle Camelids	Companion Animals Exotics & Zoo animals	Poultry	Aquaculture
<i>Lead Issues/ Interests</i>	Welfare ID & Traceability	Animal Disease: <i>Contingency planning</i> <i>Surveillance</i> <i>Novel diseases</i> <i>Endemics</i> <i>Compensation & Insurance</i> EU Animal Health Reg	TB & TBEAG Assurance & Self-Regulation	Welfare	Vets ID & Traceability EU Animal Health Reg	Consumers Public Health Global Trade: Importers & Exporters, Animal By-products
<i>Lead themes</i>	Comms	Sector councils	Evidence & R&D	Comms	Evidence & R&D	Partnership

RDPE – endemic disease control programme

The Board was informed and updated on potential funding opportunities and work to help farmers access available for animal health from the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE), Agri-tech and EU Innovations Partnerships and work to help industry access RDPE funds.

The Board input to a series of workshops held with industry to gain a common understanding of how RDPE funding can best be used.

Exotic disease compensation review

The Board discussed Defra's work on reviewing exotic disease compensation and gave input and advice to the lead policy team. It welcomed the broad and strategic approach being taken, with evidence being gathered from a wide range of perspectives including international examples.

Anti-microbial resistance

Prof Peter Borriello, Chief Executive of the Veterinary Medicines Directorate, gave a presentation to the Board on Anti-Microbial Resistance (AMR) and outlined how the UK compared to other European countries in its use of antibiotics. Prof Borriello sought the Board's support in communicating the vital importance of responsible use of anti-microbials throughout the animal-keeping sectors.

Animal movements databases

Just before the start of the period covered by this report, on 1 April 2014, the Animal Reporting & Movement Service (ARAMS) sheep electronic ID database was launched. The Board heard a presentation on its first year in operation, and its success with a good level of take up and usage.

On a number of occasions during the year discussion also took place on scoping for a multi species animal movements database and the potential such a database would unleash to improve services.

Pet travel

The Board discussed a presentation from the Pet Travel and Rabies team on the changes to the EU Pet Travel Regulation, effective from December 2014, designed to improve the security of the scheme and help tighten it against abuse.

Aquatic animal health strategy

The Board was invited to comment on the aquatic animal health strategy during its drafting stage. It is the first time that strategic aims and objectives have been set for the sector.

The work was also taken forward outside Board meetings through the Board member with lead responsibility for aquaculture.

EU animal health regulation

On 6 May 2013, the European Commission published a proposal for a single, comprehensive framework regulation for animal health to replace the complex set of animal health rules currently in place. The Board has been working with the Defra lead officials on in response to the European proposals throughout the period covered by this report, and regular updates were given at Board meetings.

Working with APHA

On several occasions during this reporting year, the Board discussed the creation and work of the new Animal and Plant Health Agency, which has been in place since 1 October 2014. The new agency merged the Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency (AHVLA) with the inspectorate functions of the Food and Environment Research Agency (Fera).

Chris Hadkiss, the Chief Executive of APHA and a Board member, updated the Board on progress throughout the year with the Defra commission to APHA in which a smaller set of key performance indicators (KPIs), replaces 30 service level agreements.

Wider Defra issues and themes

Quarterly budget review – standing item

Every quarter the Board received an update on financial matters. Board members commented on the likely future budget situation noting that Defra is an unprotected department and that therefore further budget reductions may be expected. However, they were also clear that this is an opportunity to consider new approaches to policy and delivery.

Science – assessment of future capability and needs

The Board were informed of a project to assess future needs and evidence capabilities to underpin best practice for animal and plant disease management during the next 10-15 years.

Professor Ian Boyd, the Defra Chief Scientific Adviser, gave a presentation on future science needs, including a summary of the December 2014 Government Office for Science evidence report. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/animal-and-plant-health-in-the-uk-building-our-science-capability>

Defra IT & its current evolution

The Board were informed that a move towards a single IT organisation between Core Defra, Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA), Marine Management Organisation (MMO) and Natural England (NE) was set to begin in autumn 2014.

Future developments in IT procurement were considered, and the Board reflected on the risks and benefits of large versus multiple small contracts.

Smarter guidance

The Board were informed of the Smarter Guidance initiative which will significantly reduce the volume of Defra guidance so users are given only what they need in order to comply with the law. The Board encouraged the team to work closely with end users of guidance to ensure the maximum benefit was realised.

Better regulation

The Better Regulation team gave an overview of the Farm Visits project, which aimed to reduce the burden of farm visits on compliant farmers, and make more effective use of regulator resources. This work is ongoing.

Future delivery up to 2020

Alick Simmons, the Defra Director for Animal Health Surveillance, Global Trade & Zoonoses led a discussion on how Government and industry can work in partnership for the delivery of future animal health and welfare services.

GB post-2015 project

The funding agreement underpinning the concordat between the GB Administrations that governs delivery of animal health and welfare services was due to end in March 2015. The GB project focused on how animal health and welfare will be funded and delivered post 2015. The Board was regularly informed of the progress with the project and related discussions with the Devolved Administrations (DAs).

Post-Board presentations

Over the reporting year, a series of guest presentations were made following the full Board meeting.

Delivering animal safety training to Local Authorities

Representatives from Battersea Dogs & Cats Home, City of London Corporation, the Ornamental Aquatic Trade Association and the Horse Trust presented the work of their respective organisations in delivering animal safety training to Local Authorities and others across the UK.

Poultry Health & Welfare Group

Mark Williams and Alistair Fillingham presented the work of the Poultry Health & Welfare Group, which aims to identify and address poultry related issues.

Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) and the UK 5-year AMR strategy

John Fitzgerald presented the work of RUMA (Responsible Use of Medicines in Agriculture Alliance), which incorporates their five year antimicrobial resistance strategy.

BVD control & eradication in England

Bill Mellor, Chairman of the BVD Stakeholder Group, and his colleague Elizabeth Berry, gave a presentation on work to eliminate BVD (Bovine Viral Diarrhoea).

British Veterinary Association (BVA)

David Calpin (Chief Executive) and John Blackwell (President) presented an overview of the work of the BVA and informed the Board of its strategy going forward.

Red tractor

David Clarke and Emma Graves presented the work of Red Tractor and its role as a food assurance scheme covering production standards on safety, hygiene and animal welfare.

NFU presentation

The Board welcomed Minette Batters, the Deputy President of the NFU, to give her views and insights since taking up her role in Spring 2014.

Sub groups of the Animal Health & Welfare Board

Report of the Bovine TB Eradication Advisory Group

Purpose

The Bovine TB Eradication Advisory Group for England (TBEAG) is an expert sub-group advising the AHWBE and Defra on the development and implementation of a long term strategy for eradicating bovine TB.

It takes an active role in communicating such matters to stakeholders, engaging regularly with the farming industry, veterinary profession and others.

Details of the group's members together with reports of meetings are published on the GOV.UK website.

Highlights of the year

As mentioned in last year's report, the bovine TB (bTB) Eradication Strategy for England was published in April 2014. The Group's main priority since then has been to advise Defra and APHA on implementation of the Strategy's many components. The group has encouraged Defra to give momentum to the Strategy and act upon its recommendations as quickly as possible.

This year, there has been a particular emphasis on enhancing bTB surveillance measures so as to reduce the risk of bTB spread into and within the 'Edge Area' (the buffer zone), and also between the High and Low bTB Risk Areas. The Group also focussed on the effectiveness of Defra and APHA communications with stakeholders, including the use of terminology.

The European Commission's Food and Veterinary Office (FVO) and the European Court of Auditors (ECA) conducted audits of Defra's bTB eradication programme in September and October 2014 respectively. TBEAG actively participated in both audits.

In its audit report², the FVO highlighted TBEAG's development of the bTB Eradication Strategy for England noting that it was informed by a number of expert reviews and research studies and established as a result of extensive consultations with all relevant stakeholders. The FVO concluded that Defra and APHA had taken significant steps forward in relation to the strategic planning and incorporation of new well-informed

²FVO report of audit of UK TB eradication programme, September 2014
http://ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/audit_reports/details.cfm?rep_id=3424

measures into the programme and had taken into account recommendations from the FVO in 2011 and the Task Force for Monitoring Animal Disease Eradication in 2012. However, despite a considerable effort, progress in tackling bovine tuberculosis spread was still slow in areas with a high incidence of bTB and the authorities still faced important challenges in relation to badger-to-cattle and cattle-to-cattle infection.

TBEAG continues to make a big contribution to addressing these challenges.

The following are just a few examples:

- Whilst radial bTB testing (testing farms within a radius of a confirmed breakdown) has done much to identify and eradicate bTB in the Edge Area, in the worst affected parts of that area it can be a complex, costly and narrow response. Therefore Defra Ministers accepted TBEAG's recommendation to roll out 6-monthly surveillance testing in the Cheshire Edge in order to speed up the detection of infected herds and aid the scheduling of tests by farmers.
- APHA developed an on-line interactive map 'iBTB' showing the location of all bTB breakdowns in cattle herds in England over the last five years. TBEAG advice and recommendations were incorporated into the system design and some TBEAG members participated in pre-release user testing.
- Defra acknowledged and acted on the Group's concerns that published bTB statistics could be accompanied by better explanatory material.

Another critical matter on which TBEAG has advised is bTB research and development (R&D). The Group has played an important role in identifying knowledge gaps and, moreover, ensuring Defra funding is spent effectively and efficiently.

The group was keen to hear the views of specialists and experts in the wider Defra family. Accordingly, Defra's Chief Scientific Adviser, Professor Ian Boyd, and APHA's Lead Scientist on TB, Professor Glyn Hewinson, presented to the Group during the year. There were also a number of presentations from APHA and external scientists on bTB-related R&D projects.

Review of TBEAG

TBEAG was constituted in July 2012. In line with its terms of reference, TBEAG was scheduled for review after two years. Accordingly, a review was undertaken during the second half of 2014 in line with protocols for similar groups.

The expertise of the membership was found to be largely fit for purpose, although the Group's capability to engage with stakeholders needed to be improved. Moreover, in terms of diversity of membership, the Group needs to reflect Government policy on public appointments.³ The implementation of the review's findings is being carried out during 2015-16.

³ <http://publicappointments.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/about-appointments/#diversity>

To ensure full agendas, TBEAG meetings moved to a bi-monthly cycle from June 2015. To ensure that the role is properly resourced and to increase efficiency, the TBEAG secretariat functions will be delivered by the AHWBE secretariat from summer 2015 onwards.

The year ahead – 2015/16

2015-16 is already shaping up to be as busy as last year for TBEAG, with a continuing need for the group's input on communicating, developing and monitoring Defra's delivery of the TB Strategy. Specific activities on which the group will focus include:

- Considering the responses to a consultation on introducing post-movement bTB testing in the Low Risk Area of England and other non-statutory bTB-related cattle measures, plus a 'call for views' on controls for non-bovine species;
- Options for further reinforcing bTB-related cattle measures;
- A review of TB control policy in the Edge Area;
- Decisions on development of badger and cattle vaccines; and
- Input into the development of proposals for bTB-related tertiary legislation under the proposed European Union (EU) Animal Health Regulation, which would replace existing EU Directives laying down animal health rules for intra-EU trade in cattle and for eradication of bTB in the EU.

Surveillance governance board

The Animal Disease Surveillance Governance Board is responsible for providing strategic advice to Defra and the Welsh Government through the Animal Health and Welfare Board for England, and the Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework Group.

It is a partnership board between government and industry and was established in March 2015 as part of changes to APHA's veterinary scanning surveillance system.

The Board will advise on the best use of Defra and Welsh Government funding for animal health surveillance, to retain the confidence of animal keeping sectors and enable government to meet national and international obligations.

The Animal Disease Surveillance Governance Board is chaired by Professor Dirk Pfeiffer. Dr Paul Burr, Mr Ian McGrath, Mr Paul Roger and Dr Nick Fenwick have also been appointed to the Board, along with two *ex officio* members, Nigel Gibbens, UK Chief Veterinary Officer, and Richard Irvine, APHA Head of Scanning Surveillance.

Information on the members

Dirk Pfeiffer is a Professor of Veterinary Epidemiology and Head of the Veterinary Epidemiology, Economics and Public Health Group in the Department of Production and Population Health at the Royal Veterinary College. He is a current member of the Exotic Disease Subgroup, Science Advisory Council, and has extensive experience in animal disease surveillance. Dirk is also Chief Epidemiologist at the Animal and Plant Health Agency.

Paul Burr is a veterinary surgeon and Director of Biobest Laboratories Ltd. He was previously a member of the Independent Surveillance Advisory Group, and is a Board member of the British Cattle Veterinary Association. He is a member of the Scottish Animal Health and Welfare Stakeholder Group.

Ian McGrath farms pedigree Holstein cattle across 250 acres in Cheshire, and is also a member of the TB Eradication Advisory Group, and a passionate communicator about disease surveillance and control.

Nick Fenwick is Head of Policy at the Farmers' Union of Wales.

Paul Roger is a former veterinary practitioner, who runs a veterinary consultancy from Yorkshire, as well as being an RCVS Specialist in Sheep Health and Production. Paul is a Past President and former Secretary of the European College of Small Ruminant Health Management. He is also a diplomate of the European College of Animal Welfare and Behavioural Medicine.

Case study examples of the Board's work in Partnership with Animal Keepers

Example 1: Canine and Feline Sector Group (CFSG) – Claire Horton writes:

The Canine and Feline Sector Group (CFSG) was formed over the last year and has been successful in bringing key cat and dog partners together from multiple sectors including welfare and trade bodies, vets and commercial. We have and continue to encompass interested groups and individuals including the Defence Animal Centre (DAC), PupAID (the campaign to end the UK's cruel puppy farming industry) and others in a bid to streamline and rationalise the multiple communications into Government.

CFSG has developed a strong five-year strategy and implementation plan having identified the key welfare issues. Since December 2014, when I joined AHWBE, I have sat on that group and its Steering Board as an AHWBE member feeding in the views of AHWBE, Defra and Government as necessary.

CFSG held its first Big Tent meeting in Westminster in July 2015 and brought together approximately 70 sector and industry players in common agreement. Michael Seals gave an excellent presentation on the work of AHWBE and how CFSG can play its part to effectively influence change. This group is indeed fast becoming both an influencer and a facilitator of change and a key conduit for information, advice, action and policy input to and from Government.

Thus far CFSG has contributed the following:

- input into the need for clear Guidance Notes for Microchipping of Dogs Regs 2015 and input into Practitioners Notes
- input via Greyhound Forum on Review of Greyhound Regulations 2010
- a presence on the Defra Rabies Core Group
- collating along with ADCH, a submission to the Review of LA Licensing
- contributing to the review of Model Licensing Conditions for Cat Boarding Establishments

In January 2015, at the request of Defra, I approached CFSG and secured their cooperation in the review and rewriting of the Dog and Cat statutory welfare codes. CFSG was happy to take this task from Defra recognising that as experts in the field, they are better placed to deliver effective and comprehensive welfare codes. Significant work has been undertaken by this group to research the usage and effectiveness of the current

codes and this has fed into the revised codes which are ready for submission to Defra now.

Claire Horton has worked on this area in conjunction with Tim Morris.

Example 2: Poultry Health & Welfare Group – Mike Clark writes:

Michael Seals and I met members of the Poultry Health and Welfare Group (PHWG) at NFU Headquarters on 17 August 2015. This was to discuss the case of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in laying hens in Lancashire. Right from the moment I joined the AHWBE the poultry industry has welcomed the appointment, and senior figures within the NFU, BEIC (British Egg Industry Council) and BPC (British Poultry Council) have sought me out and vice versa. Early on it was suggested I sit on the PHWG where those three industry bodies have representation. Avian Influenza has had a major impact on the industry in the last 12 months. Both Government and industry have responded well to recent outbreaks but the secondary clean out and disinfection procedures have proved a challenge both in Lancashire and the Nafferton outbreak. Michael Seals and I were able to liaise with industry and offer constructive advice on how to better engage with Government to ensure as prompt a cleaning and disinfection as possible, to everyone's satisfaction. We were also able to steer industry to consider how poultry production could be better placed in the future to cope with subsequent Notifiable Disease outbreaks.

Example 3: Mutual influence – Stewart Houston writes:

Industry persuaded Defra of the need to make PEDv a notifiable disease and from then on it has been a real partnership with each side helping the other over obstacles.

Industry was initially unwilling to take the lead in drawing up welfare codes but by building bridges between Defra policy colleagues and sector representatives, the AHWBE brought everyone together and changed the initial “no” to a “yes”.

AHWBE members worked closely with Defra officials on better use of RDPE funds through the development of an Integrated Scheme, combining Defra expertise with industry knowledge. The Board also helped facilitate the cattle industry working together on a national BVD approach in order to harness RDPE to achieve greater impact than the sum of the two parts (industry and government) on their own.

2014 annual general meeting: feedback

As part of the 2014 AHWBE AGM and in the context of AHWBE's aim to promote partnership working (collaboration and joint contribution) between government, industry and all animal keepers, a workshop was held by the Board on the future of animal health and welfare services.

The discussion covered a range of subjects related to how government and industry work together. Its outputs have fed into ongoing discussions throughout the year on a range of policy areas as well as being circulated to all attendees.

In addition, the Board asked for feedback from delegates on how it communicates its messages with the industry. This feedback has helped us to refine and target our communications including through directed emailed messages, a newsletter and updated gov.uk content.

Do you have any more Feedback for us? Please email AHWBEsecretariat@defra.gsi.gov.uk

The year so far – 2015-16

The following issues have been discussed since the formation of the new Government (June to September 2015).

Review of the greyhound regulations

The Board was updated on the progress of the review of the Welfare of Racing Greyhounds Regulations continuing discussions from the previous year.

Better regulation

The Defra Better Regulation team gave the Board an update on the work to date and the next steps in the Farm Visits project. They explained the key aims of the project to reduce the burden of farm visits on compliant farmers, and for more effective use of regulator resources.

Presentation on the use of CCTV in slaughterhouses

Peter Jinman, Chair of the Farm Animal Welfare Committee (FAWC) discussed findings from the FAWC published Opinion on the use of CCTV in slaughterhouses to assess the welfare of farmed animals.

Biosecurity programme

The Board was given an overview of the work of Defra's Biosecurity Programme and its main function of coordinating biosecurity work across the department; including invasive non-native species as well as plant health and animal health.

Looking ahead

Defra Ministers have set out their overarching vision for Defra in the 2015-20 parliament, including its purpose of unleashing the potential of food and farming, nature and the countryside, championing the environment and protecting us all from natural threats and hazards. The AHWBE looks forward to working with Defra officials and animal-keeping colleagues in the context of this Ministerial vision in the year to come.

Annex A: A-Z of issues discussed during the report year 2014-15

Issue	Meeting
Agency Futures	June, July 2014
AHVLA Changes	Sept 2014
AHVLA Charging update	July 2014
Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Commissioning for 2015/16	Dec 2014
Animal Safety Training to Local Authorities, Presentation on Delivering	Sept 2014
APHA Update	Dec 2014
Animal Welfare issues	Sept 2014
Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Commissioning for 2015/16	Dec 2014
Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)	Oct 2014, Jan 2015
Animal Health – Surveillance, Global Trade and Zoonoses Division, The Work of	July 2014
Animal & Plant Health in the UK: Future Needs for science	Jan 2015
APHA Update, KPI development & delivery	March 2015
Aquatic Animal Health Strategy	March 2015
Biosecurity Assessment	Jan 2015
BVD Control & Eradication in England, Presentation from the	June 2014
Better Regulation: Farm Visits Project	Oct 2014

British Veterinary Association (BVA), Presentation from the	March 2015
Communications Stocktake	July 2014
Defralex and Guidance Revision work	Sept 2014
Defra IT & its current evolution	June 2014
Devolution	July 2014
EU Animal Health Regulation	June, Oct, Dec 2014, March 2015
EU Pet Travel Regulation	Jan 2015
Enforcement (local authority animal health & welfare capabilities)	April, Oct 2014
Exotic Disease Compensation Review	Jan 2015
Future Delivery up to 2020	Oct 2014
GO Science – An Assessment of Future National Capability	April 2014
GB Post-2015 Project	Dec 2014, March 2015
Next Steps on the Road to Partnership	July 2014
NFU Presentation	June 2014
Open Policy Making Case Study	Sept 2014
Poultry Health & Welfare Group, Presentation from	Jan 2015
RDPE – Endemic Disease Control Programme	June 2014
RDPE Update	Sept 2014
RDPE, Agri-tech, and EU Innovations Partnership	Dec 2014

Update	
Presentation from Red Tractor	Dec 2014
Risk Based Trading	Dec 2014
Self-evaluation of the Board	Sept 2014
Sheep database and scoping a multi species database	June 2014
Smarter Rules for Safer Food Package	Dec 2014
Veterinary Delivery Partnership Project (VDPP)	July 2014

Annex B: Presentations to the Board from external interested parties

Representatives from **Battersea Dogs & Cats Home**, **City of London Corporation**, **Ornamental Aquatic Trade Association** and **the Horse Trust** presented the work of their respective organisations in delivering animal safety training to Local Authorities and others across the UK.

British Veterinary Association (BVA): David Calpin (Chief Executive) and John Blackwell (President) presented an overview of the work of the BVA and informed the Board of its strategy going forward.

BVD Control & Eradication in England: Bill Mellor, the Chairman of the BVD Stakeholder Group gave a presentation on work to eliminate BVD (Bovine Viral Diarrhoea).

Food Standards Agency: The FSA informed the Board about the EU Smarter Rules for Safer Food package.

National Farmers Union: Minette Batters, the Deputy President of the NFU, presented her views and insights since taking up her role.

Poultry Health & Welfare Group: Mark Williams and Alistair Fillingham presented the work of the Poultry Health & Welfare Group.

Red Tractor: David Clarke and Emma Graves presented the work of Red Tractor.

Responsible Use of Medicines in Agriculture Alliance (RUMA): John Fitzgerald presented the work of RUMA which incorporates their five year antimicrobial resistance strategy.

Veterinary Medicines Directorate: Professor Peter Borriello, Chief Executive of the Veterinary Medicines Directorate, gave a presentation on Anti-Microbial Resistance (AMR) and outlined how the UK compared to other European countries in its use of antibiotics.

Annex C: Organisations invited to the 2015 AGM

Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board (DairyCo, BPEX, EBLEX)	British Retail Consortium
Animal Health & Welfare Strategy Steering Group	British Small Animal Veterinary Association
Animal Science Group at the Society of Biology	British Trout Association
Assured Food Standards	British Veterinary Association
Blue Cross	British Veterinary Poultry Association
Bovine Viral Diarrhoea Stakeholder Group	British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums (BIAZA)
British Alpaca Society	Cats Protection
British Camelids Ltd	Country Land and Business Association
British Cattle Veterinary Association	Canine and Feline Sector Group
British Egg Industry Council, Poultry Health & Welfare Group	Cattle Health and Welfare Council
British Equestrian Federation	Companion Animal Sector Council
British Equine Veterinary Association	Canine and Feline Sector Group
British Horse Society	Dairy UK
British Horse Industry Confederation	DARD
Department of Health	Pirbright Institute

Dogs Trust	Royal Agricultural University
Equine Sector Council	Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS)
Farm Animal Welfare Council	Royal Veterinary College
Food Standards Agency	RSPCA
FW Events	Scottish Government
GB Wildlife Disease Surveillance Partnership	SE Animal Health & Welfare Group
Goat Veterinary Society	Sheep Health and Welfare Council
Harper Adams University	TB Eradication Advisory Group
Horse Trust	Tenant Farmers Association
Local Authority Animal Health and Welfare Panel	University of Surrey
Livestock Auctioneers Association	Veterinary Medicines Directorate
National Beef Association	Weipers Centre Equine Hospital
National Farmers Union	Welsh Government
National Pig Association	Which
Ornamental Aquatic Trade Association Ltd (OATA)	World Horse Welfare
PDSA	
Pig Health and Welfare Council	

Annex D: Board member engagement activity April 2014 to March 2015

The table below lists Non-Executive Board member activity chronologically and is intended to give an indication rather than a complete picture of the Board's work

Month and year	Organisation
Apr 14	Meeting with Henry Robinson, Country and Land Association (CLA) President
Apr 14	Oversight Group meeting (Defra)
Apr 14	Meeting with Matt Dobbs (vet) and Alasdair Cook, University of Surrey
Apr 14	Visit to Rob Harrison, Gloucestershire Dairy Farmer
Apr 14	Better Regulation Event - House of Commons
Apr 14	Exotic and Emerging Disease roundtable meeting – with Non-Executive and Executive Board members
Apr 14	Meeting with John Grounds (RSPCA)
Apr 14	Canine and Feline Sector Group meeting
Apr 14	Meeting with British Veterinary Association (BVA)
Apr 14	Weather Resilience Task Force Meeting
Apr 14	TB Strategy meeting
Apr 14	Meeting with Declan O'Rourke British Cattle and Veterinary Association (BCVA) President
Apr 14	Ragwort Communications Group Meeting
Apr 14	RDP Endemic Disease Workshop
Apr 14	Meeting with Matt Caldicott, Farming and Countryside Network (FCN)
Apr 14	AHWBE Board meeting
May 14	Temporary import of registered horses policy meeting with Defra policy officials
May 14	Meeting with Catherine Brown, Chief Executive, FSA
May 14	Attendance at Equine Sector Ministerial visit (Lord de Mauley) to

Month and year	Organisation
	Badminton Horse Trials
May 14	Animal Welfare Foundation meeting
May 14	TB in goats Goat Veterinary Society meeting
May 14	Cat Group meeting
May 14	National Poultry Board meeting
May 14	NFU combined livestock dairy board meeting
June 14	AHWBE Board meeting
June 14	Visit to Sunrise Poultry Farms Ltd Leicestershire
June 14	Horse Trust Round Table
June 14	BVD meeting
June 14	Equine Sector Council meeting
June 14	Canine and Feline Sector Council
June 14	Disease Compensation Review - Stakeholder Workshop
July 14	Visit to SAC Edinburgh
July 14	Cattle Health and Welfare Group meeting
July 14	CLG AGM
July 14	National Poultry Board meeting
July 14	Biodiversity meeting - Sussex
July 14	Farm Visits Review meeting
July 14	Meeting with Minette Batters, NFU
July 14	Meeting with Mark Grimshaw, RPA
July 14	Meeting with John Blackwell, BVA
July 14	AHWBE Board meeting
Aug 14	Surveillance Governance Board meeting
Aug 14	Free range layer farm and hatchery visits
Aug 14	Defra Oversight Group meeting

Month and year	Organisation
Aug 14	Meeting with Marilyn Lewis NARPS UK
Aug 14	Tb Eradication Advisory Group (TBEAG) meeting - Defra
Aug 14	Farming & Welfare Committee meeting
Sept 14	AHWBE Board meeting
Sept 14	Review of the Welfare of Racing Greyhounds Regulations Meeting
Sept 14	GO Science Workshop
Sept 14	Meeting with Tim Brigstocke (CHAWG)
Sept 14	Risk Based Trading meeting with BTb officials
Sept 14	VRC Open meeting Weybridge
Sept 14	Meeting Philip Atkins and Steph Young, Staffordshire County Council
Sept 14	International Cat Care awards meeting
Sept 14	National Poultry Board meeting
Sept 14	Enforcement and Farm Assurance meeting with Philippa Wiltshire, Red Tractor
Sept 14	National Biosecurity Assessment meeting with Defra Strategy Unit Officials
Oct 14	Addressing Btb meeting with Stephen Trotter, Wildlife Trust (Newark)
Oct 14	Ragwort post survey meeting (Defra)
Oct 14	Btb Governance and Funding Workshop (Defra)
Oct 14	One Health Conference (London)
Oct 14	BCVA Congress
Oct 14	Sector Council meeting
Oct 14	TB Strategy Implementation Group meeting (Defra)
Oct 14	VMD EU Steering Committee meeting
Nov 14	TBEAG meeting

Month and year	Organisation
Nov 14	Farm Visits Stakeholder Group meeting (Defra)
Nov 14	NFU/bTB science event (Stoneleigh Park)
Nov 14	AMR Summit (Defra)
Nov 14	Biosecurity strategy meeting with Defra officials
Nov 14	Value for Money Steering Group meeting (Defra)
Nov 14	National Poultry Board meeting
Nov 14	Ulster Farmer's Union meeting (Belfast)
Dec 14	Weather Resilience Task Force Seminar (Defra)
Dec 14	AHWBE Board meeting
Dec 14	Farm Visits Stakeholder Group meeting (Defra)
Dec 14	GO Science Oversight Group meeting (Defra)
Dec 14	BVD Stakeholder meeting (London)
Dec 14	Advisory Council on the Welfare issues of Dog Breeding meeting (London)
Jan 15	National Equine Forum Committee meeting
Jan 15	Farming Resilience meeting (Defra)
Jan 15	Meeting with David Blackwell and David Calpin – BVA
Jan 15	Dartmoor and Bodmin Moor equine meeting with Lord De Mauley
Jan 15	Meeting with Peter Hall and Andy Howarth regarding dog and cat care codes
Jan 15	Meeting with Sir Peter Kendall, Chairman, Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board (Stoneleigh)
Jan 15	Meeting with Minette Batters, NFU (Stoneleigh)
Jan 15	Canine and Feline Sector Group meeting
Jan 15	Animal disease resilience and capability review workshop
Jan 15	AHWBE Board meeting
Feb 15	Sector Council Meeting

Month and year	Organisation
Feb 15	Risk Based Trading workshop with Defra policy officials
Feb 15	NFU conference
Feb 15	Customer Focus meeting (Defra)
Feb 15	Responsibility and cost sharing meeting with Andrew Cobner and Neil Blake, BCVA and Gareth Hateley APHA/BCVA
Mar 15	AHWBE Board meeting
Mar 15	Welfare in abattoirs meeting with Defra policy officials
Mar 15	National Equine Forum
Mar 15	Exotic Disease compensation workshop
Mar 15	TBEAG meeting
Mar 15	Meeting with Professor Robert Lee, Birmingham University
Mar 15	Meeting with Professor Charles Godfray, (Chair, Defra Science Advisory Council).
Mar 15	APGAW Animal Welfare Question Time event (House of Commons)
Mar 15	VDP Project Board meeting
Mar 15	Meeting with Defra economist regarding Aujeszký's Levy research
Mar 15	Defra funded Animal Welfare research projects visit (Edinburgh)