

Animal Health  
Contingency Planning Division  
Nobel House  
Area 5C  
17 Smith Square  
London  
SW1P 3JR



**Telephone:** 0207 238 5111  
**Web:** [www.defra.gov.uk](http://www.defra.gov.uk)

**Date:** 18 March 2011

Dear Consultee,

**Consultation on the 2011 Annual Review of Defra's Contingency Plan for Exotic Notifiable Diseases of Animals**

I am writing to invite your views on the Contingency Plan For Exotic Notifiable Diseases of Animals.

The Animal Health Act 1981(as amended) requires that the contingency plans for Foot and Mouth Disease, Avian Influenza and Newcastle Disease are reviewed annually and, if revised, to be laid before Parliament.

To meet this requirement, Defra has begun a review of its Contingency Plan for Exotic Notifiable Diseases of Animals which outlines the roles, responsibilities, systems and structures in place for responding to an outbreak of animal disease and which also highlights our work on preparing for emergencies.

The plan covers arrangements for responding to outbreaks of Foot and Mouth Disease, Avian Influenza and Newcastle Disease, but would also form the basis for response in the event of an outbreak of other notifiable exotic diseases of animals.

The latest version of the Contingency Plan for Exotic Notifiable Diseases of Animals is now a single document (compared to previous versions when the Plan comprised of a Framework Response document and a Preparedness Document). It is hoped that the simplified document provides a clear overview of our response to an outbreak of animal disease. Please note that the draft Plan also reflects the fact that Animal Health and the Veterinary Laboratories Agency will be merging on 1 April 2011.

I am pleased to invite you to provide comment on this revised version of the plan. The consultation package can be viewed in PDF form together with the relevant documents at:



[www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/animal-disease-plan/index.htm](http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/animal-disease-plan/index.htm)

The package comprises:

- Consultation letter
- List of consultees
- Defra's Contingency Plan for Exotic Notifiable Diseases of Animals

Hard copies of the documents will be made available upon request. You should be aware that the Plan is 80 pages long (including cover and index)

Your views are invited on any aspect of the contingency plan. **The consultation period closes on 13 May 2011.**

This document is issued by Animal Health on behalf of Defra for England only, although Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland develop similar plans which reflect and compliment these arrangements within the Devolved Administration structures. In addition this year the four Countries will be jointly producing an additional overview Plan (which will reflect the policy and details in the individual Plans) to provide an overview of response to Exotic Notifiable disease at the UK level.

## Responses

E-mail responses are preferred, in the interests of sustainability, and can be sent to:

[AHHQContingencyPlanning@animalhealth.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:AHHQContingencyPlanning@animalhealth.gsi.gov.uk)

Or, you may send hard copy responses by post to:

Ian Jones  
Animal Health  
Contingency Planning Division  
Area 5C, Nobel House  
17 Smith Square  
LONDON SW1P 3JR

Responses should be received by 13<sup>th</sup> May 2011.

## Consultation Criteria

When this consultation ends, we intend to put a copy of the responses in the Defra library at Ergon House, London. This is so that the public can see them. Also, members of the public may ask for a copy of responses under freedom of information legislation.

If you do not want your response - including your name, contact details and any other personal information – to be publicly available, please say so clearly in writing when you send your response to the consultation. Please note, if your computer automatically includes a confidentiality disclaimer, that won't count as a confidentiality request.

Please explain why you need to keep details confidential. We will take your reasons into account if someone asks for this information under freedom of information legislation. But, because of the law, we cannot promise that we will always be able to keep those details confidential.

We will summarise all responses and place this summary on our website at <http://ww2.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/> . This summary will include a list of names of organisations that responded but not people's personal names, addresses or other contact details.

To see consultation responses and summaries, please contact the library at:

Defra  
Information Resource Centre  
Lower Ground Floor  
Ergon House  
17 Smith Square  
London  
SW1P 3JR

Telephone: 020-7238-6575  
Email: [defra.library@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:defra.library@defra.gsi.gov.uk)

Please give the library 24 hours' notice. There is a charge for photocopying and postage.

If you have any comments or complaints about the consultation process, please address them to Rhonda Marshall, Defra's Consultation Co-ordinator, Area 7C Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London SW1P 3JR, or email [consultation.coordinator@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:consultation.coordinator@defra.gsi.gov.uk).

Thank you for your help in this matter. If you have any queries please contact us as above.

Yours faithfully

Tim Studdert-Kennedy

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