



Science Advisory Council

SAC Epidemic Diseases sub-group

Agenda and brief

Review of Foot and Mouth Disease contingency plan
First meeting: 26th May 2004

Paper: SAC-ED (04) 1

Author: SAC Secretariat, 25/05/2004

Confidentiality status: for information

For members' use only- do not show to or discuss with anyone else
Not for publication- may be discussed with colleagues on a confidential basis
For information- may be shown freely or discussed with anyone

Briefing

Introduction

At the first meeting of the Science Advisory Council (30th April 2004) it was agreed that a sub-group would be established to carry out a rolling review of Defra's emergency contingency plans where science was an important aspect. The sub-group would focus initially on epidemic diseases and its first piece of work would be to review the Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) contingency plan.

This sub-group will focus on the scientific aspects underpinning the FMD contingency plan, **not** on the operational details of the plan.

Professor Jeffrey Waage, Head of the Department of Agricultural Sciences at Imperial College, will Chair the sub-group for the FMD work. The sub-group will work and deliberate in private and will report back to the SAC before its advice is passed on to the Chief Scientific Adviser.

Terms of reference for the sub-group's work on the FMD contingency plan

To review the scientific, including veterinary and social science, aspects of Defra's Foot and Mouth Disease contingency plan and to report back to the Science Advisory Council.

Key issues to consider

Overall science underpinning the plan. Vaccination scenarios. Risk, precaution and uncertainty. Modelling and its limitations. Data requirements for effective decision-making based on scientific advice.

Members of the sub-group

SAC members

Prof. Jeffrey Waage	Dept. Agricultural Sciences, Imperial College
Prof. Roy Anderson	Dept. Infectious Disease Epidemiology, Imperial College
Prof. Philip Lowe	Centre for Rural Economy, University of Newcastle
Prof. Thomas Meagher	School of Biology, University of St. Andrews
Prof. Mark Woolhouse	Centre for Infectious Diseases, Royal School of Veterinary Studies, University of Edinburgh

Co-opted members for the FMD contingency plan work

Mr David Black	Practising veterinarian, Paragon Veterinary Grp., Cumbria
Mr Roger Eddy	Ex-President, Royal College of Veterinary Surgeon
Dr Matt Keeling	Dept. Biological Sciences and Maths Institute, University of Warwick
Dr Laura Green	Ecology and Epidemiology Group, Dept. Biological Sciences, University of Warwick

NB: Other members of the SAC may also feed comments into the Secretariat to be picked up by the sub-group.

Time line for this piece of work

- First meeting: 26th May, 12 noon - 4pm. Initial presentation and discussions.
- Second meeting: 8th June, 12 noon – 4pm. Follow-up meeting to address remaining substantive points and draft final advice to be submitted to the SAC. A meeting room has been booked and members and Defra officials have been asked to keep this slot in their diaries clear. This meeting should be confirmed at the 26th May meeting.
- E-mail and phone discussion of issues during the first two weeks of June.
- Advice for the SAC drafted for its consideration by 14th June.
- The SAC will then discuss the advice and it will be signed-off by the SAC Chair before being passed on to Defra's Chief Scientific Adviser.
- 29-30th June: Defra live test of the FMD contingency plan. Professor Roy Anderson will represent the SAC in this test.
- Early-mid July: suggested follow-up meeting and/or e-mail discussion in light of the live test experience.
- 19th July: next full meeting of the SAC. The sub-group will report back as required and plan the next piece of work.

26th May meeting

Defra, Cromwell House, Dean Stanley Street, London

12 noon until approximately 4pm

Lunch will be provided

Expected attendees:

Jeffrey Waage (*Chair*)
Roy Anderson
Philip Lowe
Mark Woolhouse
David Black
Matt Keeling
Laura Green
Tim Bradshaw
Jo Wallace

Apologies from:

Thomas Meagher
Roger Eddy

The sub-group will also be joined by a number of senior Defra experts who will present information on the FMD contingency plan, answer questions and will be able to help focus the discussion:

Fred Landeg	Veterinary Exotic Diseases Division
Ann Waters	State Veterinary Service
John Wilesmith	State Veterinary Service
David Paton	Institute of Animal Health- Pirbright

Agenda

1. Welcome, introductions and lunch from 12 noon
2. Agree terms of reference and work plan schedule
3. Presentation on the FMD contingency plan (Fred Landeg)
 - Presentation to include the outline of an up-coming desk-top exercise on FMD and work in progress for the live test on 29th June
 - A paper will be tabled on specific issues that members are asked to consider. Focus on vaccination, broad principles of the plan and areas of uncertainty.
4. Question and answer session and discussion on key issues with senior Defra experts
5. Identify and summarise key issues that still need to be addressed
6. Further discussion (in private if required)
7. Initial points to pick-up in draft advice from the sub-group
 - List of key issues to address in e-mail discussion/further meeting
8. Confirm whether to hold follow-up meeting on 8th June
9. AOB

End of meeting approx 4pm