

FIRST MEETING OF THE JOINT (INDUSTRY/GOVERNMENT) WORKING GROUP ON SHARING RESPONSIBILITY AND COSTS OF ANIMAL DISEASE : 16 DECEMBER 2005 – CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL LONDON

Present

Guests

Lord Bach	PUS Lords
Rhian Mewis	PS to Lord Bach

Members

Sonia Phippard	Joint Chair
Stewart Houston	Joint Chair
Peter Bradnock	BPC
David Dawson	Defra

Peter Dawson	Dairy UK
Thomas Hind	NFU
Richard Kempsey	BEIC
Nafees Meah	Defra
Kevin Pearce	NFU
Robert Robinson	NBA
Freda Scott-Park	BVA
Mike Sheldon	NPA

Secretariat

Roger Walsh	Defra
Ross Adams	Defra
Eunice Obeng	Defra
Catherine Wackett	Defra
Paul Skelton-Stroud	Defra

Observer

David Pirnie	Rocket Science Ltd
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Apologies

1. Apologies were received from Mark Williams (BEIC) and Richard Bennett (EIG).

Introduction

2. Following introductions and opening remarks by the Joint Chairmen, Lord Bach welcomed the formation of the Group. In noting the sensitivities of the issues relating to animal health management and balancing risks, responsibilities and costs associated with keeping farm animals he said that he was much encouraged by the joint chairmanship approach. Partnership working was the means to help industry and Government move forward in achieving a sustainable livestock industry. In acknowledging that the work of the Group would be challenging he offered full Ministerial support and his very best wishes for a successful outcome.

3. Following a brief discussion of the background the following action points emerged from the discussion of the agenda items:-

Action

Identification of key issues (Doc JIGWG 05)

- (i) Provide a paper to the Group on the implications of European Community policy (including state aid rules) for a system in England to embrace the

operation of the Community veterinary fund and reimbursement of eligible costs;

(ii) include self insurance as a possible arrangement for financing disease outbreaks;

(iii) reflect the importance of disease prevention and the role of surveillance;

(iv) include as an issue the impact of wider policy decisions carrying cost implications going beyond those needed solely for disease control to embrace how financial controls may be affected;

(v) while developing a model that meets English needs, ensure that developments elsewhere – especially in Scotland and Wales to safeguard animal disease management across Great Britain – are compatible, requiring strong engagement with the Devolved Administrations;

(vi) update Defra economic data on individual livestock sectors to reflect latest positions;

(vii) invite Mike Segal to give a presentation at the next meeting of the conclusions of the work of the Animal Disease Insurance Working Group;

(viii) the position of hobby farmers would need to be considered;

(ix) provide a list of diseases for discussion;

(x) presentation of FMD model; (David Dawson)

(xi) include as an issue possible impacts on the meat supply chain;

Terms of Reference (Doc JIGWG 07)

(xii) reflect more fully in the document the partnership approach, the importance especially of external and on farm biosecurity controls in the role of disease prevention and the need to balance the risks and responsibilities of keeping farm animals;

(xiii) reflect more fully the need for the approach to fit with any proposed EC changes to animal health policy;

Timeline and work programme (Doc JIGWG 08)

(xiv) the Group suggested that an early meeting should include discussion on (exotic) diseases and categories;

Communications (Doc JIGWG 09)

(xv) issue a press release of membership before Christmas/early New Year;

(xvi) feedback to Secretariat on the stakeholder list to include other organisations to reflect more fully industry interests; (Group Members)

(xvii) utilise the amended list to determine invitations to the wider stakeholder conference;

Group contact/cost sharing mailbox

(xviii) circulate contact list to include the details of Dr Freda Park's secretary.

Summary

4. A useful first meeting with a run over the ground of some of the issues.

**JIGWG SECRETARIAT
December 2005**