

# **TB Eradication Programme Frequently Asked Questions and Answers**

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## Regionalisation

### 1. How were the TB Areas drawn up?

The TB Areas are an indicator of the relative disease status across holdings in a defined area in Wales and are allocated to either a Low, Intermediate, or High status. The TB Areas are an amalgamation of spatial units, made up of parishes, which were created using a similar approach for creating statistical units for the UK censuses. The spatial units are compatible with the CPH system and each contains a similar number of herds. This approach is not affected by local authority boundary changes and is flexible to change to match the disease situation. The disease situation of the areas, and the spatial units which make up them, will be regularly reviewed.

### 2. How do I know in which TB Area my farm is located?

On the 17 July the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) wrote to farmers to remind them of the changes recently announced by the Cabinet Secretary that will come into force on the 1 October. In the letter farmers were told that they are in a Low, Intermediate or High TB area and what measures apply to each of those areas. In some cases a small number of farms will cross over different TB areas, however in order to keep the changes simple a farm can only be designated to one area. The areas are based on the location of the main farming unit to which the County Parish Holding (CPH) number is allocated, and therefore **regardless of outlying pockets of land, a farm will only need to comply with the requirements of the area that their CPH number is linked to**. A map of the areas and further information can be found on the Welsh Government's website.

### 3. Is there a more detailed map available?

A detailed and interactive map is available at <http://lle.gov.wales/map/walestb>

All cattle keepers were informed individually in July of the TB Area in which their farm is located. If keepers have lost this communication they should contact APHA on 0300 303 8268.

Another useful tool that enables a keeper to enter their parish and find out what TB area they are in can be found here <http://ahvla.defra.gov.uk/tb-test/index2015.asp>

A map of England's TB regions and testing requirements for those areas can be found here <http://www.tbhub.co.uk/guidance/testing-and-compensation/testing-areas/>

### 4. Why are you pursuing a regional approach to TB eradication?

The approach reflects the regional variations in the levels of the disease in Wales. The regional variations can be assessed, for any one period of time, by considering the numbers of new TB incidents, the numbers of existing TB incidents and the numbers of closed TB incidents. This is a commonly used principle, in other

countries and for other diseases, to protect those populations that are at risk from those populations that pose a greater risk.

## **5. Why not delay implementation until after the CPH programme has finished?**

**To avoid complication, a single holding will be wholly in one area only.** There will be no delay in implementing the regional approach as it risks the disease situation in the Low TB Area becoming worse.

## **6. Can a CPH location be changed, because the farmer sees a commercial advantage in changing the TB Area?**

There are specific criteria for what can be considered the Primary Production Location (PPL) which must be met in the following order of priority:

- The location of the livestock buildings / milking parlour / main handling facilities for animal health and welfare / husbandry purposes. In the majority of cases this will be the same as the correspondence address.
- If no building / housing is present (i.e. in the case of an extensive holding), the PPL would be the gathering location.
- In the minority of cases, where the keeper occupies no enclosed land, only common grazing rights, the PPL is the correspondence address (Common land cannot be considered part of the PPL)
- Location of the greatest proportion of owned land / long term let.

When keepers transition their holding (through Rural Payments Wales) online, they will be required to select the land parcel where their livestock buildings / milking parlour etc are located, and can only select one of the other criteria if they do not have those facilities. If the land parcel selected as the centre point of the PPL is changed to be a location in a different parish to the CPH number (which could potentially mean a different TB Area), the request will be reviewed by RPW to ensure the selection of the PPL is in line with the above criteria.

## **7. Will the regional approach create a two-tier market?**

The approach is necessary to enable the implementation of specific measures:

- To protect regions, where levels of TB are low (the Low TB Area), from new incursions of disease, in particular from the movement of infected cattle from areas where disease levels are significantly higher;
- To protect regions where TB levels are at a medium level (the Intermediate TB Areas), in order to drive disease levels down to a low level.
- To target farms where disease levels are consistently high for long time periods, or are at high risk of long-term TB breakdowns. These are more prevalent in the High TB Areas.

Farmers are encouraged to share information on the area the animal has moved from at the point of sale. CHeCS TB health schemes will benefit farmers within a High TB Area who have not recently, or ever, had TB by having their low-risk status recognised. In the longer term a mandatory system will make sure TB information is provided for every animal, allowing farmers to manage the risk.

## **8. How do I manage when I have land in different TB areas?**

The general principle is that all the land included in the same CPH will be in the same TB area (even where this may currently cross area boundaries). Any land included under a different CPH will be subject to the relevant controls for movements between those CPHs, including if they are in different TB areas.

## **9. I am on the Welsh/English border do these rules apply to me?**

Yes, if you have a Welsh CPH. The new measures will not change the way our cross border farms are managed and if farms on the border have a Welsh CPH then they will also need to comply with the new measures. In cases where there is a cross border TB breakdown, APHA will manage that breakdown on a case by case basis.

## **10. What if I take on summer grazing (April to the end of October) how will the regional approach affect me if the summer grazing land is in a different TB Area to the one that my main holding is in?**

If the summer grazing land is under the same CPH as the main holding (for example if under a Temporary Land Association (TLA)), the summer grazing land would be in the same TB Area as the main holding. For TB breakdown herds, a Veterinary Risk Assessment (VRA) will be completed by APHA to assess all of the potential TB risks associated with a proposed move to summer grazing.

The VRA will consider the relative TB risks posed by the area the move is to and then determine whether the move can be allowed, or not. In some cases moves are permitted only if additional measures are taken to reduce the risks to an acceptable level. The position has, therefore, not changed.

## **11. I move cattle for winter housing; the farm is in a different TB Area. What are the implications?**

With regard to winter housing, keepers would need to report movements to the CPH the animals are being moved to, so the region would be determined by the location of the winter housing CPH. In the case of TB breakdown herds a VRA will be completed by APHA to assess all of the potential TB risks associated with a proposed move to winter housing. It will include the relative TB risks posed by the local area the move is proposed to and then decide whether the move can be allowed, or not. It may be that there are additional mitigation measures that can be used to reduce the risks to an acceptable level. The position, therefore, has not changed.

## **12. How and when might the geographical zones be altered and how much notice will be given?**

The disease situation of the areas, and the spatial units that make up them, will be reviewed and changes will be made when it is appropriate to do so. It is anticipated that the first TB Area boundary review could take place in the second quarter of 2019, when the final figures for end of year 2018 will be known. The European Commission Directive calculation is made on 31 December each year, so it would be

appropriate to coincide any review with when data for the entire period is available. An appropriate amount of lead in time will be given in advance of any changes being made.

**13. Will the parishes on the boundaries of the areas be the only ones considered to be reduced if the level of breakdowns reduces?**

The disease situation will be reviewed at the spatial unit level.

## Selling cattle at markets

### **14. Will markets in the High TB Areas be able to sell cattle from Low and Intermediate TB Areas as they do now?**

Yes. There will be no restrictions on where markets source their cattle from. The TB area markets are located in will not affect the controls on the basis that they have to adhere to biosecurity standards, under the Animal Gatherings Order, which reduce the risk of disease spreading locally.

### **15. I am in the Low TB area. If I take my animals to a market in a higher TB area will I have to PoMT that animal if I bring it back to my farm?**

Markets will be designated as neutral areas. This means that there will be no restrictions on where farmers in different areas can take their animals to sell or buy. If a farmer from the Low TB area takes an animal to a market in the Intermediate or High TB area and does not sell that animal, they will be able to take the animal back to their holding without a post movement test (PoMT). The requirement for PoMT is based solely on the location of the farm and not the location of the market.

### **16. Is there a duty on the vendor or auctioneer to declare an animal's history when sold from different risk areas?**

Through informed purchasing we are encouraging vendors to provide TB information at the point of sale and some livestock markets have upgraded their facilities to allow TB information to be prominently displayed.

### **17. I am in a high TB Area, will this new policy devalue my cattle?**

It is impossible to predict at this stage how markets will react to these changes, or how they will settle down again once the changes have bedded in. It is likely in the future that policies will increasingly focus on the benefits of purchasing from individual herds, even in High TB Areas, that have never experienced a TB breakdown. Some keepers, whose herds have not experienced a TB breakdown in the last 10 years may even now benefit from considering joining the CheCS scheme, as the requirement to PoMT, if they sell animals to the Low TB Area, will not apply to home-born animals from level 10 CHeCS herds.

### **18. If a farmer moves cattle from the Low TB Area of Wales and sells them in a market in England, do they need a PrMT?**

No. However some buyers in England e.g. those operating Licensed Finishing Units (LFUs) may insist on cattle being Pre-Movement Tested due to LFU conditions.

## Pre-Movement Testing (PrMT) and Post-Movement testing (PoMT)

### 19. What are the circumstances when I need to Pre-Movement Test (PrMT) and Post-Movement Test (PoMT) my cattle?

All cattle in Wales need to have a PrMT unless they are moving from or within the Low TB Area.

In the Low TB Area, certain high risk herds i.e. those herds which have recently had a TB breakdown and those subject to Contiguous Testing will still need to PrMT, until they return to normal surveillance testing.

Cattle in Wales only need a PoMT when they are moved from an Intermediate TB Area or High TB Area in Wales (or from England's Edge Area, High Risk Area, or Northern Ireland) into the Low TB Area. The PoMT is only required for moves from a higher disease area into the Low TB Area (see the table below):

Move from	Move to	PrMT?	PoMT?
Low (Wales)	Low (Wales)	No	No
Intermediate (Wales)	Low (Wales)	Yes	Yes
High (Wales)	Low (Wales)	Yes	Yes
Low (England)	Low (Wales)	No	No
Edge (England)	Low (Wales)	Yes	Yes
High (England)	Low (Wales)	Yes	Yes
Scotland	Low (Wales)	No	No
Low (Wales)	Intermediate (Wales)	No	No
Intermediate (Wales)	Intermediate (Wales)	Yes	No
High (Wales)	Intermediate (Wales)	Yes	No
Low (England)	Intermediate (Wales)	No	No
Edge (England)	Intermediate (Wales)	Yes	No
High (England)	Intermediate (Wales)	Yes	No
Scotland	Intermediate (Wales)	No	No
Low (Wales)	High (Wales)	No	No
Intermediate (Wales)	High (Wales)	Yes	No
High (Wales)	High (Wales)	Yes	No
Low (England)	High (Wales)	No	No
Edge (England)	High (Wales)	Yes	No
High (England)	High (Wales)	Yes	No
Scotland	High (Wales)	No	No
Low (Wales)	Low (England)	No*	Yes
Intermediate (Wales)	Low (England)	Yes	Yes
High (Wales)	Low (England)	Yes	Yes
Low (Wales)	Edge (England)	No	No
Intermediate (Wales)	Edge (England)	Yes	No

High (Wales)	Edge (England)	Yes	No
Low (Wales)	High (England)	No	No
Intermediate (Wales)	High (England)	Yes	No
High (Wales)	High (England)	Yes	No
Low (Wales)	Scotland	Yes	Yes
Intermediate (Wales)	Scotland	Yes	Yes
High (Wales)	Scotland	Yes	Yes

\*some buyers in England's Low Risk Area, e.g. those operating Licensed Finishing Units (LFUs) may insist on cattle from the Low TB Area having a PrMT.

It is the intention, following review of PoMT in the Low TB Area, that the requirement is expanded to the Intermediate TB Areas from October 2018.

**20. Herds in Scotland can only accept cattle that have had a PrMT. How does this fit in with the Low TB Area PrMT exemption?**

Welsh cattle keepers must adhere to their country's rules on PrMT when moving cattle from their holding. However, if cattle from the Low TB Area are to be moved to Scotland then PrMT is needed because Scotland has a PrMT requirement for all cattle moving there from annually tested herds in Wales. Cattle keepers in the Low TB Area are still at liberty to Pre-Movement Test their cattle if they so wish.

**21. What are the testing requirements for cattle moving into England's Low Risk Area from the Low TB Area?**

There is no legal requirement for cattle moved into England's Low Risk Area to be Pre-Movement Tested. However some buyers from the Low Risk Area, such as those operating Licensed Finishing Units (LFUs) may insist on it.

When moved to the Low Risk Area all cattle originating from Wales will be required to have a Post-Movement Test.

**22. I am in a Higher TB Area. In what circumstance will my animals be exempt from post movement testing (PoMT) if moved into a Low TB Area?**

From the 1 October PoMT will be required for cattle moved in to the Low TB Area. There will be some exemptions to this rule, including if the animal is moving from a herd which is a member of a CHeCS TB health scheme and the animal/ herd are classified as level 10. The CHeCS level 10 accreditation covers only cattle that were born on the holding, not bought in cattle. This is in recognition of the lower risk posed by those herds in an Intermediate or High TB Area which have not had TB for ten or more years. We also hope it will also increase participation in the TB health schemes.

It should be noted the CHeCS programme differs from the statutory TB controls in several ways. For participating herds it is recommended all added animals are

placed in isolation upon arrival and additional Pre and Post-Movement Testing may also be required. The CHeCS testing requirements are not affected by this exemption.

More detail on the PoMT requirements is available on our website:  
[www.gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/ahw/disease/bovinetuberculosis/cattlecontrols/Postmovementtesting](http://www.gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/ahw/disease/bovinetuberculosis/cattlecontrols/Postmovementtesting)

### **23. How do I arrange for my herd to be CHeCS accredited?**

If you are interested in joining CHeCS, discuss with your vet and contact one of the scheme providers:

HiHealth Herdcare: 01314 402628  
Premium Cattle Health Scheme: 01835 822456  
[www.checs.co.uk](http://www.checs.co.uk)

### **24. Who will be responsible for paying for Post-Movement Testing?**

Like the PrMT, the PoMT would be paid for privately by the farmer.

### **25. I'm in a Low TB Area but I have bought cattle from a High TB Area. I need to Post-Movement Test the cattle I have bought. These animals have had a Pre-Movement Test and I can't Post-movement Test until 60 days after they arrive on my farm. What if I want to sell these animals on again within that period?**

You will not be able to trade these animals, other than moving them to slaughter, a slaughter market, an Approved Finishing Unit, or a Licensed Finishing Unit (Wales), until you have had a PoMT 60-120 days after the movement. This is to ensure that the risk of onward disease spread within the Low TB Area is kept to a minimum.

### **26. I am in the Low TB Area and buy cattle at market. How will I know if the cattle I buy need a PoMT?**

Farmers will be required to check the location the animal came from but additionally APHA will be sending a monthly letter to farmers who appear to require Post Movement tests and APHA will be monitoring compliance. As a general rule, if an animal had had a Pre-Movement Test, if it is moved into the Low TB Area, it will also need a Post-Movement Test. However, there are instances where the PrMT may have been undertaken, as part of a herd surveillance test, or the animal is under 42 days of age at the time of movement and exempt from a PrMT (but not from a PoMT).

### **27. I am in the Low TB Area and sell cattle at market. If I bring my cattle home, should I test and isolate them?**

There are no requirements to test or isolate these animals if they are not sold at market and brought back to the herd. If you are concerned about any unsold cattle bringing disease back to your holding you are free to isolate and test them (60 or

more days after the last test) with APHA permission. However, a large proportion of cattle at markets will have been required to have a Pre-Movement Test and the relative duration of time cattle are present at the market is short so, while the risk is not negligible, there is likely to be a low risk of cattle contracting bovine TB at markets.

**28. Will cattle from Low TB /Low Risk Areas be penned in different areas of the market to those from higher risk areas?**

Although it is good practice for biosecurity reasons, there will be no obligation for markets to separate cattle from different TB Areas. Due to the limited time cattle tend to spend at market, the disease transmission risks are deemed to be low (but not negligible).

**29. It is unclear if the PrMT exemption for calves under 42 days will still apply?**

Where PrMT remains a requirement, calves under 42 days will continue to be exempt.

**30. Will I have to PoMT my calves if I buy them when younger than 42 days of age?**

Yes. In circumstances where a calf (under the age of 42 days) is sold from an Intermediate or High TB area and moves to a holding in the Low TB area then the purchaser is required to PoMT the calf. The purchaser will have a 60 day window to test the calf and will be notified via a letter from APHA. The animal cannot move from the holding until it has had a PoMT.

**31. Why do you want to PrMT as well as PoMT test, surely the test is more accurate than you are suggesting?**

Despite the controls we have in place (including PrMT) it is not possible to fully eliminate the risk of TB spreading through cattle movements. Some of the reasons for this are:

- The sensitivity of the skin test is around 80%, which mean only 80 out of 100 infected animals are likely to test positive at standard interpretation of the test;
- Cattle can become infected after being tested and before they are moved;
- Cattle may be at a very early stage of infection when tested and too soon for the test to detect disease;
- If the animal is infected with another disease it can interfere with the test;
- TB is disseminated widely in the animal, which then mounts a different immune response, which results in it not being identified as a positive by the test.

The PoMT will provide an opportunity to identify infected animals that may have moved into the Low TB Area undetected, at the earliest opportunity, minimising the likelihood of the disease going on to infect others.

**32. If a reactor is found at a Post-Movement Test, how will tracings be undertaken?**

If a reactor is identified at a PoMT, APHA will consider, the need for additional testing in the herd of origin and of any other cattle sold from this herd on a case by case basis

## Testing requirements for movements to and from Agricultural Shows

**33. Do cattle on holdings in Wales need a PrMT and/or PoMT if they are moving to an exempt agricultural Show (i.e. one that is less than 24 hours in duration and/or unhoused) and returning to their premises of origin?**

No.

**34. Do cattle on holdings need a PrMT and/or PoMT if they are moving to an exempt agricultural Show (i.e. one that is less than 24 hours in duration and/or unhoused), but not returning to their premises of origin?**

Yes. There is no PrMT and no PoMT exemption if not returning to the premises of origin.

**35. Can cattle, which have moved onto a holding in the Low TB Area and which require a PoMT, move off the holding to an exempt agricultural show, prior to a clear PoMT?**

No.

**36. Do cattle moving to a non-exempt Show (i.e. one that is longer than 24 hours in duration and/or is housed) need to be Pre-Movement Tested?**

Cattle from the High TB Areas and Intermediate TB Areas **will** need a Pre-Movement Test before being moved to a non-exempt Show. Cattle from the Low TB Area will not need a Pre-Movement Test if moving to a non-exempt Show, unless:

- The Show has specified testing as a requirement (for example the Royal Welsh Show and Winter Fair), and/or
- The herd is either undergoing post TB breakdown testing or contiguous testing. In these cases bovine animals of 42 days and over will need to be Pre-Movement Tested before leaving the holding until the herd returns to normal TB surveillance testing.

**37. What are the Post-Movement Testing requirements for cattle returning, or moving to the Low TB Area from a non-exempt Agricultural Show?**

Cattle will need to be Post-Movement Tested between 60-120 days after returning, or moving to the Low TB Area from a non-exempt show, located in the Intermediate or High TB Areas in Wales, Edge or High Risk Areas of England.

A general licence will enable cattle to move from a non-exempt show in the Low TB Area of Wales, without a post-movement test. The licence will require those cattle sold at a non-exempt show in the Low TB Area, which have originated from herds in the Intermediate, or High TB Areas of Wales, or the Edge, or High TB Area of England to move to the Low TB Area, but will require a post-movement test.

A summary of key changes are as follows:

Movement from and back to premises of origin located in:	Show located in Low TB Area, Low Risk Area (England) or Scotland		Show located in Intermediate or High TB Areas, Edge or High Risk Area	
	PrMT	PoMT	PrMT	PoMT
<b>Low TB Area</b>	No*	No	No*	Yes
<b>Intermediate TB Areas</b>	Yes	No	Yes	No
<b>High TB Areas</b>	Yes	No	Yes	No

**\*PrMT is exempt, unless:**

- The Show has specified testing as a requirement (for example the Royal Welsh Show and Winter Fair), and/or
- The herd is either undergoing post TB breakdown testing or contiguous testing. In these cases bovine animals of 42 days and over will need to be Pre-Movement Tested before leaving the holding until the herd returns to normal TB surveillance testing.

**38. I am in the Low TB Area and I move my cattle to exempt and non-exempt Agricultural Shows across Wales (and England) during the show season. When do my cattle need a Post-Movement Test?**

Animals, which require a Post-Movement test following return from a non-exempt show to the Low TB Area will only be allowed to move off to exempt and non-exempt Shows during the season if they:

- Have received a Post-Movement test with clear results; or
- Move into a certified Quarantine Unit (QU), are licensed to move off before a Post-Movement test and remain in the Quarantine Unit (when not at a show) through the show season, until a final Post-Movement test has been completed with clear results. A Post-Movement test will be required at 60-120 days after the initial movement back from a non-exempt show into the Quarantine Unit and at 60-120 days after the final movement back from a non-exempt show to the Quarantine Unit

**39. Why are you requiring use of a certified Quarantine Unit to enable multiple movements to and from Shows?**

Use of the QU will protect a keeper's own herd and will reduce the risk of disease being spread within the Low TB Area prior to completion of Post-Movement Testing. Otherwise, the keeper would not be able to move his cattle to multiple Shows within the Show season because the animals must remain on the holding until completion of a clear Post-Movement Test.

**40. Am I able to use my QU for Six day standstill and show purposes at the same time?**

No other animals are allowed to use the same QU as show cattle moving to and from multiple shows. This includes not only other cattle moving onto the premises, but also goats and sheep, which are TB susceptible species.

**41. If I am showing dairy cattle will I be able to move them into my usual milking parlour while they are in the Quarantine Unit?**

Lactating animals must not leave a QU to be milked, and the sharing of milking facilities between quarantined and non-quarantined animals is not permitted. If dairy animals enter the QU, dedicated temporary milking facility can be used within the QU itself, provided any portable equipment is not moved out of the QU, before thorough cleansing and disinfection has taken place.

Milk from animals within the QU can be sold in the normal way, but must not be fed to other animals on the main holding (including cats and dogs).

**42. Shows less than 24hrs in duration and/or do not involve housing are exempt from PrMT / PoMT rules. Does this include tents/ marquees?**

Tents and marquees (even those with no sides) are considered to be housing and are not exempt from PrMT/PoMT requirements.

**43. Has industry been consulted on this issue?**

The Welsh Government has discussed options for protecting the Low TB Area from disease imported back from shows outside of the Low TB Area with representatives of the Association of Show and Agricultural Organisations (ASAO) and the Royal Welsh Agricultural Society (RWAS) and assimilated their concerns while developing this policy.

**44. What are differences between a Quarantine Unit certified by the Welsh Government and an isolation facility?**

An *isolation facility* is any building, or outside area, which has biosecurity measures in place to prevent either direct, or indirect contact of isolated animals through a shared airspace, the drainage or disposal of excreta, or the shared use of equipment with other animals on the premises. They may be used to prevent

the onward transmission of disease from moved in animals, whose disease status is unknown, until testing for the disease is complete. They may also be used to contain the spread of disease from an already infected animal, or animals.

A *Quarantine Unit* (QU) certified by a certification body, on behalf of the Welsh Government is a specific type of isolation facility, developed by the Welsh Government, for cattle, sheep, or goats moving on to a holding to provide short term accommodation, in order to negate the requirement for the whole holding to be subject to the 6 day standstill. They operate to specified operational rules and requirements to prevent contact with other animals on the holding and are approved by a certification body.

A Certified QU provides an appropriate level of biosecurity; they are inspected, to ensure standards are maintained and that they are being used appropriately. Certified Quarantine Unit requirements and operational rules, following a public consultation, were agreed by the Welsh Livestock Identification Group (LIDAG) and delivery partners. The proposals were also subject to a thorough Veterinary Risk Assessment.

For use under the General Licence for cattle moving to and from non-exempt shows in the Low TB Area, a certified QU must only contain similar cattle moving to and from exempt shows.

Certified Quarantine Unit requirements and operational rules may be similar to those for other isolation facilities, depending on the use and requirements for those isolation facilities and whether they are part of a requirement for a scheme, such as the industry TB Cattle Health Schemes operating under CHeCs.

More information and frequently asked questions relating specifically to Quarantine Units can be found here

<http://gov.wales/docs/drah/publications/171003-quarantine-units-frequently-asked-questions-en.pdf>

#### **45. How do I apply for a QU?**

QUs must be certified by a Certification Body accredited by the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS). There is currently one Certification Body accredited to certify QUs:

Quality Welsh Food Certification Ltd. Email: [info@qwfc.co.uk](mailto:info@qwfc.co.uk)

Tel: 01970 636 688

You should contact the Certification Body, who will be able to provide you with QU standards and operational rules. Once you have set up your QU in adherence to

the standards provided, you should contact the Certification Body to arrange for it to be reviewed and certified. Certification Bodies will charge a fee for this service.

Further information can also be found on the [Welsh Government's website](#).

## Chronic herd breakdowns

### 46. What is a chronic herd breakdown?

The Welsh Government's definition of a chronic herd breakdown is a cattle herd that has had its Officially TB Free Status Withdrawn (OTFW) and:

- Has been OTFW for a duration of 18 months or more (i.e. a persistent breakdown); OR
- Became OTFW at or before the 12 month check test, following an earlier OTFW breakdown (i.e. a recurrent breakdown), but excluding recurrent breakdowns where all reactors are animals brought in since the close of the previous incident, unless subsequent molecular typing information does not support a purchased origin.

It should be noted that persistent TB breakdowns are being focussed on in the first instance.

### 47. How will I know if my herd is a persistent/ recurrent/chronic herd breakdown?

APHA will be in contact with farmers who have had a TB breakdown lasting 18 months or longer (i.e. a persistent breakdown) in the first instance.

### 48. How many persistent TB breakdowns are there?

At any one time there may be 50-60 persistent herd breakdowns in Wales.

### 49. Which initiatives are being taken forward in chronic herd breakdowns?

There are a variety of initiatives that will be taken forward in chronic herd breakdowns in Wales, focussing initially on persistent breakdowns. A bespoke Individual Herd Action Plan will be developed in consultation with the farmer, their private vet (providing the farmer requests their involvement) and APHA for each chronic herd breakdown. All persistent TB breakdowns are currently located in the Intermediate and High TB Areas.

Action Plans contain a variety of measures aimed at clearing up TB infection and supporting these herds to become Officially TB Free. Each one will be different but typical measures include:

- Increasing test sensitivity through more frequent use of the gamma interferon test as well as removing inconclusive reactors;
- Reducing contact between cattle and badgers through improving biosecurity at high risk points;

- Instituting cleansing and disinfection of cattle feed troughs, water tanks, equipment (where applicable) and buildings (when empty);
- Where it is viewed that badgers are contributing to the persistence of disease in chronic herd breakdowns, badgers may be trapped and tested. Positive testing badgers will be humanely euthanased.

From 1 October 2017, to coincide with the coming into force of the Tuberculosis (Wales) Order 2017, the following measures will also be implemented in chronic herd breakdowns, focussing initially on persistent breakdowns:

- The clearing test that lifts TB movement restriction on a herd will no longer be able to be used as a Pre-Movement Test (meaning that cattle need a further clear test before being able to be moved off the premises, other than to slaughter);
- Where cattle are moved under a licence within a TB restricted holding, Welsh Government will, for certain moves, only pay 50% compensation if the moved animals are subsequently slaughtered as a result of TB;
- Biosecurity Requirements Notices (BRNs) will be issued as necessary to OTFW chronic breakdown herds and compensation will be reduced in cases of non-compliance.

## Clearing test

### **50. Is the clearing test the same as the whole herd test?**

No. The clearing TB test is a test which is used at the end of a breakdown to determine if a herd can be released from TB restrictions. The whole herd test is a routine surveillance test which herds have once a year.

### **51. I'm in the high TB area and I don't have TB. Will I require two tests before I'm allowed to move my animals?**

No. The requirement for an additional test is only in circumstances where a herd has been under restrictions for 18 months or longer. In those cases a herd will have to wait a further 60 days and complete a Pre-Movement Test before they can move or sell those animals.

### **52. In persistent herd breakdowns, how long after the clearing test can PrMT take place to allow movements?**

60 days from the date of injection (day one of the test). In the interim the herd restrictions will be lifted to permit restocking or the sale of calves under 6 weeks of age.

This policy only applies to persistent herd breakdowns at present, however it will be rolled out to apply to recurrent herd breakdowns in the near future.

### **53. What is the evidence behind this policy?**

The current proportion of closed breakdowns in Wales that recur within two years is 27.5%. However, this varies across the regions:

- Low: 0%
- Intermediate (mid): 14%
- Intermediate (north): 25%
- High (west): 29%
- High (east): 34%

In the low and intermediate areas there is an area of overlap between factors driving the disease i.e. cattle movements. We have demonstrated this through molecular epidemiology – analysis of genotyping and movement records, as well as individual case review of breakdowns using local field epidemiological knowledge. This matches the findings of the Independent Scientific Group on Cattle TB which found that a number of undiagnosed TB-infected cattle remain following tuberculin testing, leading to the re-infection within herds and the spread of disease to neighbouring herds and outwards to the rest of the country.

## Compensation reduction for within herd movements

### 54. What is changing?

For TB breakdowns which become persistent (i.e. remain under restriction for 18 months), or for existing breakdowns, which are already persistent, there will be a review with the intention in most instances of serving a separate TB restriction (or more than one) on outlying buildings, or parcels of land.

This will mainly apply to dairy herds, but could apply to beef herds, in some instances. All movements of cattle, to and from the main milking location, must then take place under a licence. Movements away from the milking location will usually be under a general licence and will not attract any compensation reduction. Movements of beef animals back to the main milking unit will be discouraged and if allowed will be under a specific movement licence and lead to a 50% compensation reduction for the moved animals, which are removed for TB control reasons at any stage during the remaining term of the breakdown. Movements back to the main milking unit of dairy animals will be subject to a veterinary risk assessment and where the risk is above low and the movement is allowed, will be subject to a 50% compensation reduction, if those moved animals are removed for TB control reasons, during the remaining term of the breakdown. For large herds with more than one milking location, the milking locations will have separate TB02 notices applied and movements between the separate herds will be usually prevented.

Cattle owners will be given an opportunity to restructure their holding before this policy takes effect and implementation will vary according to the status of a breakdown:

- Existing Persistent breakdowns – compensation reduction will be applied as necessary from 1 April 2018.
- Herds that have been under restriction for between 12-18 months will receive a letter to inform them of the consequences of becoming a persistent TB breakdown – compensation reduction will apply as necessary after 1 April 2018.
- Herds that have been under restriction for less than 12 months will receive letter at 12 months – compensation reduction will apply as necessary at the point the herd becomes a persistent TB breakdown (at 18 months).

### 55. Why are you bringing this in?

Moving cattle to other sites within a CPH potentially presents a significant risk of disease spread in chronic herd breakdowns. It could involve the movement of potentially diseased animals, over a large area, mixing sub populations of cattle with different risk levels. The practice of moving animals within a CPH in a chronic TB breakdown herd is likely to perpetuate the problems of disease circulation within the herd.

**56. How will the 50 percent compensation reduction for within herd moves be operated in practice?**

In the first instance this will be applied only to within holding, licensed moves in persistent herd breakdowns, principally in dairy herds. There will be no compensation reduction for cattle moved away under a general licence. Beef animals moved back to the main milking unit will be subject to automatic compensation reduction, whereas dairy animals will be subject to compensation reduction only if the risk level is deemed to be 'above low risk'. Holdings with more than one milking unit will usually be split with separate TB restriction notices (TB02s) to ensure movements are not allowed between these units, except in exceptional circumstances.

## Inconclusive reactors in chronic breakdowns

### **57. What is changing?**

As part of the Action Plan process in chronic herd breakdowns, focussing initially on persistent breakdowns, all Inconclusive Reactors (IRs) will be slaughtered.

### **58. What is the evidence for this?**

Analysis has been performed on TB testing data from the 10 most persistent TB breakdowns in Wales between 2010 and 2015. This analysis showed that a high number of standard and severe interpretation Inconclusive Reactors went on to become reactors at further testing.

## Biosecurity Requirement Notices (BRNs)

### **59. What is changing?**

As part of the ongoing Action Plan process, BRNs will be issued as necessary to OTFW chronic herd breakdowns to improve biosecurity standards, focussing initially on persistent breakdowns. Compensation will be reduced in cases of non-compliance.

### **60. Why are you introducing BRNs?**

Any deficiency in biosecurity in chronic herd breakdown could be leading to the persistence of disease. It is therefore important that low standards of biosecurity are identified and addressed.

### **61. What are the differences between Biosecurity Requirement Notice/Veterinary Improvement Notice/Veterinary Requirement Notice?**

Veterinary Requirement Notice (formally a Veterinary Improvement Notice (VIN))- A Veterinary Requirement Notice requires a farmer to take specific actions to prevent the spread of TB.

Biosecurity Requirement Notice (BRN) - A Biosecurity Requirement Notice will be issued as necessary to chronic herd breakdowns. BRNs will state where biosecurity should be improved for the purpose of preventing the spread of TB but will allow the farmer to decide how to meet the objective(s) set out in the notice. Comprehensive guidance on biosecurity standards will be provided to the farmer at their first DRF visit and, if they have not done so already, they will be encouraged to have a Cymorth TB visit. This will help the farmer identify at an early stage any possible biosecurity weaknesses on the farm and allow them to familiarise themselves with the level of biosecurity that is required. The farmer will be alerted to biosecurity deficiencies during the Action Plan consultation process and will be given time to correct these before service of a time-limited BRN, which will require actions to be completed by a set date and measures to be maintained. A BRN is a legal notice and failure to comply with the notice may lead to compensation reduction for animals, which are removed for TB control reasons.

## Dealing with wildlife

### **62. What is changing?**

As part of the ongoing Action Plan process, where the Welsh Government views that badgers are contributing to the persistence of disease in chronic herd breakdowns, badgers may be trapped and tested on the breakdown farm and test positive badgers humanely euthanased. Again, persistent breakdowns will be focussed on initially.

### **63. What do you plan to do in order to show that badgers are contributing to the problem?**

It is intended that samples from badgers and cattle collected from a farm will be subject to Whole Genome Sequencing, which can determine whether they share the same strain of infection.

### **64. Will the Badger Found Dead Survey continue as part of a regionalised approach?**

Yes. The Welsh Government has recently completed a procurement tendering exercise and an All Wales Badger Found Dead and any other Wildlife Species Contract commenced on the 1 September 2017. The Wales Veterinary Science Centre will be operating this contract.

This contract will enable the Welsh Government to continue to gather data and provide analysis on the prevalence of *M. bovis* infection in badgers and a genotype present.

If anyone comes across a dead badger carcass they should phone 01970 612374 for further information and instructions.

### **65. Is there a correlation between infected badgers found and TB breakdowns in Wales?**

Yes, analysis of the molecular types of *M. bovis* in badgers from the 2005/06 Badger Found Dead Survey were found to be common with *M. bovis* in cattle in the area. The survey report concluded that tuberculosis in badgers in Wales is closely associated with the disease in cattle, indicative of transmission of infection between the two species.

### **66. How long does bovine TB infect a sett for?**

Research undertaken in the Republic of Ireland by Young, Gormley and Wellington in 2004 demonstrated that *Mycobacterium bovis* is capable of persisting in the farm environment outside of its hosts. Survival time is influenced by climatic factors. In relation to survival in/or around a badger sett, the study detected *M. bovis* genes in soil around badger setts 21 months after possible contamination.

As with any TB infection, within an animal population living in close proximity to each other, TB can be slowly spread and recycled through the population mainly through infected sputum, aerosol droplets, or bite wounds. Research work shows that not all animals in a sett will be infected with TB at any one time and not all animals with TB show clinical signs of illness, or are infectious. However, latent infection is a significant issue with TB and animals can succumb to the disease and become infectious again a long time after initial infection.

#### **67. What about badger vaccination?**

The role of vaccination will be considered once vaccine becomes available again.

#### **68. Where can I find the results of the work done in the IAA?**

An annual report is published which compares the trends in indicators of TB within the IAA compared to other areas in Wales in the 5 years prior to the IAA being established and the subsequent 6 years. The latest report can be found at the following link:

<http://gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/ahw/disease/bovinetuberculosis/intensive-action-area/?lang=en>

## Informed Purchasing

### **69. How did the grant for markets work?**

We established the grant to help livestock markets upgrade their facilities to allow TB information to be prominently displayed. Ten applications successfully received funding of up to 50% of the cost (up to a maximum of £2,500) of equipment, such as display boards/screens, and any new or update to back-office software. As part of the grant conditions, markets are required to ask for and, when provided, display the following three pieces of information:

- Date of the animal's last Pre-Movement Test
- Date of the seller's last routine herd test
- Date the herd achieved Officially TB Free (OTF) status.

There are no plans currently to re-open the grant to upgrade market facilities. The Welsh Government will, however, monitor the success of the first round of grant funded work to assess the viability of re opening.

### **70. When will a mandatory Informed Purchasing scheme be introduced?**

This will be a longer term objective of the Wales TB Eradication Programme.

### **71. Risk based trading/Informed purchasing- is a farmer not entitled to client confidentiality under Data Protection laws?**

The current Informed Purchasing scheme is voluntary at the moment so farmers are not obliged to share information about the TB status when selling. However, so that purchasers can make informed decisions about the cattle they buy, the Welsh Government encourages this sharing of information.

## **TB Compensation**

### **72. What is the compensation cap?**

The compensation cap is set at a maximum of £5,000 per animal.

### **73. How are cattle valued?**

In Wales, cattle are valued individually by professional valuers. These valuations are scrutinised on a monthly basis by a panel of Monitor Valuers and justification is sought from valuers when necessary. There are also automatic justification thresholds in place for commercial (£1,800) and pedigree cattle (£3,000).

### **74. Why is a cap of £5,000 per animal being introduced?**

A cap of £5,000 will protect the Welsh Government from the cost of compensation for the highest value cattle. In 2015-16 if the cap had been introduced only 95 animals would have had their compensation affected (around 1% of all cattle slaughtered). This would have resulted in a saving of £270,000.

In 2016/17 if the cap had been introduced only 68 animals would have had their compensation affected (less than 1% of all cattle slaughtered) and would have resulted in a saving of just under £200,000.

### **75. Can I get insurance for my high value animals?**

We have been informed that although this is an immature market for providers, some insurance is available to cover any value which is in excess of £5,000. Owners of high value cattle should contact insurance companies to discuss potential cover.

## Cattle Vaccination

### **76. When will a cattle vaccine be available?**

To use any cattle vaccine, we must be able to show the difference between cattle that have been vaccinated and those that are infected. We have been working on a test for this (a DIVA test) for a number of years, and our focus now is to assess the specificity of this test to see how often it generates false positive results. Further work on developing a cattle vaccine will depend on the results of this assessment. A very optimistic assessment estimates that vaccine could be available by 2023.

## Cymorth TB

### 77. What is Cymorth TB?

The aim of *Cymorth TB* is to provide support and advice to farmers whose cattle have TB. This is to:

- Minimise the impact of the disease on their farm
- Prevent the disease from spreading

The Veterinary Programme - Private vets play a pivotal role in ensuring the health and welfare of animals in Wales. Through *Cymorth TB* we are seeking to enhance the role for private vets in the management of TB. The veterinary programme allows farmers and herd keepers affected by TB access to a specialist visit by a specifically trained private vet.

The programme is managed by the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) and delivered by private vets subcontracted to the two Welsh Veterinary Delivery Partners. Farmers are offered access to the programme in the form of a voucher which will be provided to them by APHA.

Other *Cymorth TB* programmes – The Welsh Government has developed other *Cymorth TB* programmes providing additional personal, wellbeing support for cattle keepers, contracting with the Farming Community Network, and farming businesses during TB breakdowns.

## Exempt Finishing Units (EFUs)

### **78. What are EFUs?**

EFUs are able to receive cattle which have not had a Pre-Movement Test but are from an Officially TB Free (OTF) herd (although PrMT cattle can enter the unit). Cattle can move direct to slaughter, or to slaughter via a dedicated slaughter collection, or a dedicated slaughter market.

### **79. How many EFUs are there in Wales?**

There are around 20 EFUs in Wales

### **80. What is happening with EFUs in Wales and why?**

EFUs will be phased out by 1 January 2018. Over the 2 year period January 2015-December 2016 there were 15 new breakdowns in the 21 EFUs in existence at the time. Given the number of breakdowns in these herds, EFUs pose a risk to disease control.

### **81. What options will be given to EFU operators?**

Before revocation, EFU operators will be given the option to either TB test all of the cattle on the unit, or to depopulate. In the Low TB Area operators can consider whether to become a Licensed Finishing Unit (LFU), or in the High TB Area, operators can consider whether to become a housed Approved Finishing Unit (AFU). No new AFUs are being allowed in the Intermediate TB Area. Owners can alternatively choose to go back to operating as a normal farm holding.

## Licensed Finishing Units (Wales) (LFUs)

### **82. What is an LFU (Wales)?**

An LFU (Wales) will be a unit approved by APHA to enable finishing cattle to be purchased into the Low TB Area from the Intermediate and High TB Areas of Wales and the Edge and High Risk Areas of England and Northern Ireland, without the requirement of a PoMT. Cattle in LFUs (Wales) will be resident indoor only and the cattle buildings will require a minimum level of biosecurity protection from wildlife. The unit will be under continuous TB movement restrictions and can only sell under licence to slaughter directly or indirectly through a dedicated slaughter market (except when under TB breakdown testing). Cattle will be able to be moved in under licence, except during the period following a TB breakdown (until the first Short Interval TB test).

### **83. Why is an LFU considered safer than an EFU?**

There will be no PrMT exemption for cattle from the Intermediate and High TB Areas of Wales and the Low (where it applies to certain herds), Edge and High Risk Areas of England and Northern Ireland entering these LFUs (Wales). Instead of a PoMT for all cattle entering these units, routine surveillance will be carried out through 6 monthly testing. A PrMT is seen as an important means of identifying TB before an animal has moved, thereby providing additional protection to purchasers in the Low TB Area.

## Biosecurity

### **84. How would biosecurity improvements work in practice when fields are not truly biosecure?**

Biosecurity is about reducing the opportunities for a disease to enter a herd. Recent research evidence shows that badgers tend to avoid pastures when cattle are grazing in them, suggesting that transmission of TB from badgers to cattle at pasture is more likely through indirect means than through close contact between the two species. *Mycobacterium bovis* (*M.bovis*), the causative organism of TB, can be found in the urine, or faeces of some TB infected badgers. Transmission of TB can occur through the ingestion of the organism, but not as readily as through the inhalation of airborne droplets. The extent to which the contamination of pasture, by excretions from badgers, plays a significant role in the transmission of TB to cattle is unknown. High risk points of indirect contact between badgers and cattle are considered to be feed and water troughs, mineral licks and badger setts and latrines on field boundary edges. There are common sense, precautionary measures that cattle farmers can take to reduce the likelihood of TB transmission from badgers to cattle at these locations. Badger setts and latrines on field boundaries can be fenced off from inquisitive cattle and badgers can be prevented from accessing feed and water troughs through raising their height and ensuring sheer sides sloping outwards to the trough rim edge.

Research has shown that some badgers will visit farm buildings and come into close contact with housed cattle. There are a number of effective precautions that can be taken to prevent badgers accessing cattle housing and feed stores.

### **85. Is it possible for bovine TB to be transmitted through slurry from infected farms?**

*M.bovis* can be isolated from the faeces of some TB infected cattle. Transmission of TB can occur through the ingestion of the organism, but not as readily as through the inhalation of airborne droplets. There is a potential for TB to be spread from cattle to cattle and cattle to badgers through the application of slurry on pasture land, or land used for herbage. However, the extent to which slurry plays a significant role in TB transmission on an infected farm, or from an infected farm to other neighbouring farms is unknown. The production of aerosols during the mixing, pumping and application of slurry may pose a particularly high risk of transmission to cattle. Farmers should consider carefully the potential risks posed not just by TB, but by other infectious organisms, such as *Salmonella* before deciding to import slurry onto their farm from another holding. Equipment used such as umbilical pipelines, which are not routinely cleansed and disinfected between farms may pose additional risks.

### **86. How long can bovine TB remain in slurry?**

*M.bovis* can survive up to 6 months in stored slurry. Survival times of the organism are less in heaps of heated low moisture content manure, of up to 30 days. Fields should not be grazed, or cut for silage for at least 60 days following the application of slurry, which has not been stored for 6 months.

**87. Are procedures to negate the risk posed by slurry carried out and inspected?**

The potential risks posed by slurry/ manure on TB breakdown farms and the extent to which potential risks need to be further controlled are currently under review by Welsh Government. Cattle keepers on restricted holdings are currently offered advice on storage and spreading best practice at an initial visit to assess the epidemiological origins of a TB breakdown and the risks posed are now re-assessed when a farm becomes persistently infected at 18 months, when further action may be required. The legislation does allow for a notice to be served on a keeper to require him/ her not to remove manure, slurry or other animal waste from the premises except under the authority of a licence issued by an inspector and this may be used in a particularly high risk situation.

## Targets

### **88. For each region, what is the time-line to achieve a 'TB-free' status?**

Timelines for eradication in each TB Area have not yet been established, but further work is being done to develop targets for eradication. In the short and medium term, the Welsh Government's targets are to continue the progress seen in recent years, further bear down on disease in the highest-incidence areas and protect areas where TB levels are low. Currently, there is no official forecast date for TB eradication in Wales. However, the Welsh Government is currently working to produce formal targets for eradication, and interim milestones, and intends to report on these by the end of 2017.

## TB test and restrictions

### **89. To what degree is the skin test sound and 100% proven? Is anybody working on a more accurate TB testing system?**

Even though the intradermal skin test has been used in the national TB eradication programme since 1950, it is still recognised as the main screening test for TB across the EU and world-wide. It detects a cell-mediated immune response mounted by an animal to infection with TB. In the way it is used in the UK and Ireland, it can differentiate between animals infected with *M.bovis* from animals infected with other environmental mycobacteria. Most infected cattle are detected through routine surveillance testing before they show any signs of illness. The skin test has a very high specificity, meaning that very few uninfected animals test positive. Recent research has shown that this may be as high as 99.98%, which equates to 1 false positive result per 5,000 uninfected animals tested. However, the sensitivity of the test i.e. the proportion of infected animals detected is reported as around 80% at standard interpretation. This means that in an infected herd some infected animals may go undetected by the test. However, none of the tests currently available (performed either before or after death) are 100% accurate in determining the TB status of an animal. This means that in some cases a combination of tests is required. More severe interpretation of the test and a validated Interferon gamma test are used in the testing of chronic herds or in explosive TB breakdowns to raise the sensitivity of the testing to assist in detecting infected animals.

Research workers are involved in developing other potential ancillary diagnostic tests including Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) methods, antibody tests and a phage test.

### **90. My animal was culled as a reactor to the TB skin test, but at post mortem examination I was told lesions and culture results were negative, so it didn't have the disease, did it?**

We know the skin test is very specific from research work involving test results found in particular in areas of low TB incidence. Post-mortem examination cannot detect early microscopic lesions of TB which may be present but are not visible to the naked eye. Similarly culture of tissues, where lesions cannot be seen is less successful than from tissues with lesions, as targeting of tissue to culture is more indiscriminate. An animal, with a post-mortem result, which is classed as "Non Visible Lesions" and is culture negative does not mean that the animal was not infected with TB. It means that we have failed to detect signs of TB in the carcass of the animal following a robust test result that indicates it was highly likely to have been infected with TB.

## Funding the Programme

### 91. Where is the funding coming from? Additional funds or transfer of funds from other sources/schemes?

There will be no increase to the TB Eradication Programme budget which will mean work will need to be prioritised on the basis of value for money and phased in as budgets and resources allow.

### 92. Does the £150m spent on compensation include the market value that is realised by WG when animals are sold?

Yes, Welsh Government receives the salvage value, based on the value of any meat that can be salvaged from animals slaughtered due to TB. The £150m spend on compensation covers a 10 year period. In addition to the cost of TB compensation, Welsh Government also pays for the haulage and slaughter of animals removed from farm, and also pays valuers fees.

### 93. How much does WG receive in salvage?

The amount of salvage that the Welsh Government received depends on the number of animals slaughtered, and the amount of meat that is salvageable. Please see the table below that details the amount of salvage receipts that the Welsh Government received for the past 5 financial years.

Year	Salvage
2012/13	-£2,020,000
2013/14	-£1,462,000
2014/15	-£2,521,000
2015/16	-£2,846,000
2016/17	-£3,483,000

### 94. What is the cost of vaccinating badgers?

The relevant expenditure is contained in the link below.

<http://gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/ahw/disease/bovinetuberculosis/intensive-action-area/badger-vaccination-iaa>

### 95. What are the admin costs for this programme?

Administration costs are funded from programme delivery spend that includes policy making and delivery. It is therefore not possible to differentiate between administration and policy making/delivery costs.

**96. What was the cost of the Badger vaccination programme and how much improvement did the areas see?**

The relevant expenditure and benefits are contained in the link below.

<http://gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/ahw/disease/bovinetuberculosis/intensive-action-area/badger-vaccination-iaa>