

**From Defra**

## **Bovine TB: Pre-movement testing questions and answers**

**Q1: Is Defra to pay for pre-movement tests?**

A1: From 20 February to 30 June, the Government will pay for **one pre-movement test per CPH** in England whose cattle are over 15 months of age are moving out of a 1 or 2 year tested herd.

**Q2: Why has Defra decided to do this now?**

A2: Though early indications are that the new system is settling down well, the Government wants to ease the transition and ensure that pre-movement testing is a success. This decision also recognises the wider financial pressure the industry is facing at this time.

**Q3: What is the time limit?**

A3: The Government will reimburse farmers or pay LVI's for one pre-movement test that is carried out during the period from 20 February to 30 June. This period will not be extended. [Note:20 February was the date that pre-movement testing was scheduled to come into effect in England, though it was announced on 16 February that this would be delayed until 27 March.]

**Q4: How much will it cost the Government?**

A4: A maximum of £714,000 has been allocated for this period although payments are expected to be much less. This is because the figure covers an estimate of the cost of all the pre-movement tests that may be carried out during this period paid at current LVI rates.

**Q5: Where has the money come from? If the Government can pay for pre-movement tests for this period why can't they continue to pay for all pre-movement tests?**

A5: These payments will be made under EU state aid agriculture *de minimus* rules, which allow a maximum of €3,000 per business over three years. Any herd owners who have received their maximum support under agricultural state aids will not be able to receive support under this scheme. The SVS will undertake cross-checks to ensure suitability.

**Q6: What if I have more than one pre-movement test carried out during this period?**

A6: You must chose which test occasion you submit to SVS for Government payment. Routine herd surveillance tests continue to be paid for by the Government.

**Q7: How do farmers claim?**

A7: To participate in this scheme, herd owners will need to first contact the SVS to ensure they are eligible for state aid support. Herd owners must then arrange their pre-movement test with their LVI in the usual way. The LVI will then be paid by the Government rather than the farmer. If herd owners have already had a pre-movement test at their own expense since 20 February this can qualify as their 1 paid test. In these instances, the Government will reimburse herd owners the cost of the test subject to presentation of appropriate paperwork to the SVS.

**Q8: I have already paid my LVI for a pre-movement test carried out after the 20 Feb, do I lose out?**

A8: No, you can be reimbursed for this test. You should contact your local AHDO for advice on how to make a claim.

**Q9: What if I need a pre-movement test before 25 April when the State Veterinary Service will have the procedures in place to process claims?**

A9: If you have a pre-movement test before this date which you choose to be your Government funded test, you will need to ask the LVI to send you the bill and pay your LVI. After 25 April you will be able to apply to the SVS to be reimbursed for the cost of the test.

**Q10: How does Defra know that people won't take advantage of the scheme and have more than one test?**

A10: SVS must be informed by LVI's of all TB tests carried out and will keep records of those who have applied under the new scheme. They will be able to ensure that each CPH is limited to one test each. The scheme will operate on the basis that Government will pay for 1 test per CPH during the period 20 February to 30 June.

**Q11: I am a Welsh herd owner and have paid for a pre-movement test to send my cattle to England - will I get reimbursed?**

A11: No, the Government will be paying for English herd owners tests only. This is a temporary support scheme to ease the introduction of the new policy in England.

In light of postponing the introduction of pre-movement testing in England from 20 February to 27 March, Defra did agree to reimburse costs of tests done in Wales up to 20 February.

**Q12: I am a Scottish herd owner and pay for pre- and post-movement testing – will I get reimbursed.**

A: No, this Government support is limited to pre-movement tests carried out by English herd owners to support compliance with English legislation.

**Q12: What about support for post-movement tests in England?**

A: These are not covered in the temporary scheme. Farmers must make efforts to check that cattle they bring on to their farm have had a clear test in the last 60 days or are exempt. If not, farmers should test these animals on arrival. Failure to do so may result in movement restrictions being placed on the herd.