



Presentation at BVA Congress

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Responsibility and Cost Sharing



BVA Conference

25th September, 2009

Gavin Ross

Horses – a species apart?

- **Reduce the incidence and cost of animal disease and disease risk;**
- **Ensure investment in prevention, control and eradication is targeted and delivered effectively;**
- **Use general taxation to fund the provision of public goods only; and**
- **Ensure private beneficiaries of public intervention meet the costs.**

- 2002 - Anderson report into FMD (2001)
- 2006 Joint Industry Working Group Report (Sharing Responsibilities and Costs of Exotic Diseases)
- 2006 & 2007 Consultations on principles and next steps for sharing responsibilities and costs for animal disease
- 2006 Public Accounts Committee Report
- 2009 NAO Report
- European Commission has been discussing RCS for some time. Proposals for EU harmonised cost sharing arrangements due 2010/11.

Timetable for Consultation and Legislation ³



- 30th March - 30th June 2009: Third Public Consultation
- Christmas 2009: Publish Draft Bill
- Easter 2010: Complete Pre-Legislative Scrutiny
- Oct/Nov 2010: Introduce Bill (1st Session)
- Nov 2011: Royal Assent
- April 2012: Earliest proposals could come into effect

Scope of the New Body

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- Everything as Defra – all livestock (including equines) and livestock policies and functions are in scope, except animal welfare.

Including policy on and budget for:

- R&D;
- Preparedness, surveillance, vaccination, movement controls;
- Import controls;
- International trade;
- Compensation arrangements.

Animal Welfare to Remain in Defra

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- High level of general public concerns, wide breadth of interests, moral and religious aspects to choices, political nature of issues (e.g. circuses, fur, animal testing, slaughter, tail docking)
- Appropriate that Ministers remain directly accountable to Parliament and electorate
- Doesn't prevent essential connections between animal health and animal welfare being maintained under new arrangements
- Defra policy already split this way, but all areas are involved in the case of an outbreak (trade, commodities, welfare etc)

Implementing Policy

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- Defra Agencies (VLA, AH) - Review Underway
- Advice from Advisory Group
- Other delivery relationships would transfer from Defra to new body (e.g. Local authorities, UK Border Agency)
- New Body (and its agencies) could continue to offer costed services to Devolved Administrations

Funding sources

- Public funding – budget transferred from Defra
- Fees and charges for individual services
- New revenue streams from livestock keepers
 - 50% co-funding rate for preparedness and surveillance
 - 50% new body's exotic disease outbreak costs

- Keepers of farm livestock (including horses?) required to register;
- Keepers provide annual self-declaration of maximum livestock numbers kept previous year and estimate for coming year;
- Annual fee calculated on maximum numbers kept or places available for different livestock;
- Seeks to strike balance simplicity/low cost and fairness;
- Payment threshold? Discounts for lower risk status?

- Equine interests represented on RCS Advisory Group – Dr Tim Morris
- 18 months of partnership working Defra/Equine sector developing legislation and control strategy for African Horse Sickness
- Equine Exotic Disease Core Group to be established early 2010
- Experts Group and Key Stakeholder Group

- Preparedness, surveillance, contingency planning benefits all susceptible species
- Controls and compensation:
 - Equine Infectious Anaemia
 - African Horse Sickness
 - West Nile Virus

Contact:

RCSharing@defra.gsi.gov.uk

020 7238 4953

Border controls

- Risk based, targeted, proportionate approach
- Legal Imports – enter by one of 22 Border Inspection Posts
- All subjected to documentary and identity checks
- Minimum 20% red meat & 50% poultrymeat physical checks depending on product and country of origin
- 70% of travellers are from within the EU, UK had 33 million international visitors in 2006.
- Sydney has 10 Million international travellers / annum, Auckland has 5 Million
- Body could increase focus on illegal imports - prioritisation

Illegal Imports – UK Border Agency use detector dogs, x-ray equipment at all customs green channels, and over belt scanners on selected baggage belts – from high risk locations.

- 25K seizures (total weight 185,000 Kg) between Jan 07 – March 08 (a 29% decrease of total seizures on 06/07 figures)

Public Awareness – Risk based campaigns via minority media outlets, local communities and on-line

- Posters and adverts at select international ports and airports
- Extra £25M between 2003 - 06 to tackle illegal imports from outside EU

- VLA surveillance of emerging diseases in major food animal species; diagnostic services: circa £15m
- FMD & AI Vaccine Banks (EU mandatory): circa £1m
- LAs' activities on record keeping, movement recording and control; additional enforcement work: circa £8.5m
- AH emergency preparedness, contingency planning, including exercises: circa £8m
- Poultry Register/Livestock ID/Madders Review implementation: circa £3.5m
- R&D into range of exotic diseases: £7.5m