



## Presentation at BVA Congress

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## **Notifiable Disease Control: Leading the Response.**

### **Role of the Contingency Official Veterinarian**

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# Biography

- Livestock vet in West Sussex
- Worked as a TVI FMD 2001 (Gloucester)
- Became CLVI in 2006
- Worked as a CLVI FMD 2007
- Renamed COV in 2008



## Contingency Official Veterinarian (COV)

- Private vets employed by Animal Health during a disease outbreak
- Four attached to each AH office
- Regular training sessions
- Practice exercise each year



## Role of the COV

- Independent vet
- Local knowledge
- Practical experience
- Liaison between public and DEFRA
- Office based in the LDCC (Local Disease Control Centre) during a disease outbreak

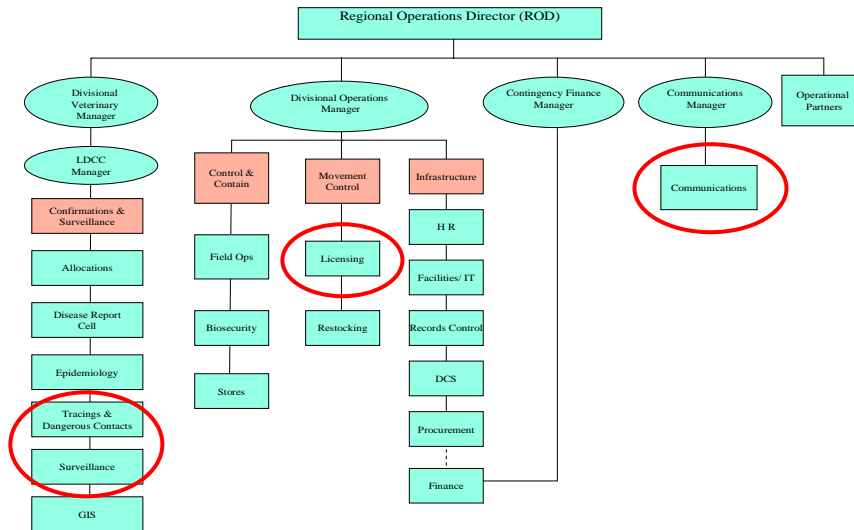


## Local Disease Control Centre (LDCC)

- Co-ordinate
- Contain
- Eradicate
- Recover



# LDCC



## Surveillance

- Identify Disease
- Assist in Prevention
- Help in the lifting of zones



# Tracings and Dangerous Contacts

- Source Tracing
- Spread Tracing
- Rapid Culling



# Licensing

- Advice to those affected by restrictions
- Allow essential farming practices to continue



## Communications

- External
- Press, ROD, DOM, DVM support
- Helpline
- Internal



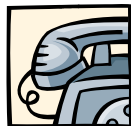
## FMD 2007

- Called in to action within 24hours of outbreak confirmed
- Allocated to Licensing
- Helpline



# Licensing Team

- Advice to those affected by restrictions in relationship to movements of animals, vehicles, animal products, equipment etc.
- The team's aim is to ensure that licences are issued correctly to allow essential farming practices to continue while not allow the spread of disease.



## Helpline

- Farmers
- Abattoirs
- Horse owners
- Dog owners
- Vets
- Walkers
- Game Shoots



# Communication

## External Communication

- Local Vet Meetings
- Local Farmer Meetings
- Information

## Internal Communication

- DVM, VO, ROD
- CVO, Secretary of State



# Role of the COV

## My View

- Local Knowledge
- Veterinary Knowledge
- Common Sense
- Adaptable
- Efficient
- Practical
- Welfare
- Liaison
- Independent



# Nine lessons for disease control

- Be prepared with contingency plans
- Have a sound legislative framework
- Base policy decisions on best available science
- React with speed and certainty
- Apply risk assessment and cost benefit analysis
- Manage data effectively
- **Maintain vigilance**
- **Respect local knowledge**
- **Explain policies. Plans and practices**

