APHA PROPOSED REVISION OF EXISTING FEES FOR STATUTORY SERVICES – BVA / BCVA / BVPA / PVS RESPONSE

1) The British Veterinary Association (BVA) is the national representative body for the veterinary profession in the United Kingdom and has over 15,000 members. Our primary aim is to represent, support and champion the interests of the veterinary profession in this country, and we therefore take a keen interest in all issues affecting the profession, including animal health and welfare, public health, regulatory issues and employment matters.

2) We have consulted specialist divisions the British Cattle Veterinary Association (BCVA), the British Veterinary Poultry Association (BVPA) and the Pig Veterinary Society (PVS)

3) We understand that the proposed revision of fees for these statutory services (bovine embryos, bovine semen, porcine semen, Poultry Health Scheme (PHS), Salmonella National Control Programmes (NCP), and Border Inspection Posts (BIPs)) is underpinned by a review of processes to identify efficiencies and improvements and that government still continues to fund a wide range of activities related to animal health and welfare, such as research and development, surveillance and enforcement. We also understand that maintenance of fees at current levels (ie 'no intervention') is not considered to be a realistic option as this would mean that APHA would continue to partially subsidise the services, which could impact on the Agency's ability to deliver other critical work.

4) We support the proposals to revise current fees to new full cost recovery rates in 2015/2016, particularly as APHA has revised its full cost recovery methodology to ensure that only the proportion of cost which results from the chargeable activities are included in the calculation of the fees, and that costs relating to the emergency resilience aspect of the Agency's work have been excluded.

December 2015