January 2017

The Zoonoses (Fees) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017
BVA NORTHERN IRELAND BRANCH RESPONSE

1) BVA is the national representative body for the veterinary profession in the United Kingdom and has over 16,000 members. Its primary aim is to protect and promote the interests of the veterinary profession in this country, and it therefore takes a keen interest in all issues affecting the veterinary profession, be they animal health, animal welfare, public health, regulatory issues or employment concerns.

2) BVA’s Northern Ireland Branch brings together representatives of local veterinary associations, BVA’s specialist divisions, government, and research organisations in NI. NI Branch advises BVA on the consensus view of the NI members on local and United Kingdom issues.

3) We understand that EU Member States are required to implement a series of National Control Programmes (NCPs) for the control of salmonella in the poultry sector, and that existing legislation implements the NCPs for breeding, laying and turkey flocks. Since the Zoonoses (Fees) Regulations (NI) 2011 came into effect, allowing the Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs to recover costs, amendments to the Fees Regulations have been made to introduce a move from flat rate to sector specific charging for fees relating to the examination of samples and to ensure the fees are at a level for full cost recovery. Further amendments were made in 2013 and 2014 to adjust the fees to reflect changes in the costs of collecting and testing the samples.

4) Having consulted with colleagues at the British Veterinary Poultry Association (BVPA), a specialist division of the BVA, we would like to reiterate our comments of December 2012 and 2013 when we stated that, if it is necessary to fully recover costs there should be a level field of fees throughout the UK and, if necessary, Europe, because of the extensive nature of the industry.