



Minutes of the APHA Executive Board Meeting Thursday, 4th January 2018, Union Jack Club, London.

EB 18/01	List of Attendees	Person Responsible															
<p>List of Attendees:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 30%;">Pat McCarthy</td> <td style="width: 60%;">Authority</td> <td style="width: 10%;">Associate Member of APHA, Chair</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gill Morgan</td> <td>Swansea Bay Port Health Authority</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cllr Jeff Dudgeon</td> <td>Belfast Port Health Authority</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cllr David Carr</td> <td>Medway Port Health Authority</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cllr Wayne Davies</td> <td>River Tees Port Health Authority</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>		Pat McCarthy	Authority	Associate Member of APHA, Chair	Gill Morgan	Swansea Bay Port Health Authority		Cllr Jeff Dudgeon	Belfast Port Health Authority		Cllr David Carr	Medway Port Health Authority		Cllr Wayne Davies	River Tees Port Health Authority		<p>PM GM JD DC WD</p>
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<p>Overview & Scrutiny Cttee</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 30%;">Cllr Keith Morley</td> <td style="width: 60%;">Hon Associate and Chair</td> </tr> </table>		Cllr Keith Morley	Hon Associate and Chair	<p>KM</p>													
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<p>In attendance</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 30%;">Gary Gould</td> <td style="width: 60%;">Executive Officer</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Adam Ferhani</td> <td>PhD Student</td> </tr> </table> <p>Minutes taken by: GG</p>		Gary Gould	Executive Officer	Adam Ferhani	PhD Student	<p>GG</p>											
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EB 18/02	Apologies for Absence	Person Responsible															
<p>With all attendees present, PM opened the meeting at 12.00 by welcoming everyone and confirming that it was quorate.</p> <p>Apologies were received from:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 30%;">Cllr John Warman</td> <td style="width: 60%;">Swansea Bay PHA</td> </tr> </table>		Cllr John Warman	Swansea Bay PHA														
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EB 18/03	Declaration of Interests	Person Responsible															
<p>There were none.</p>																	
EB 18/04	Election of Chair & Vice Chair	Person Responsible															
<p>GG advised the Board that, as this was the first meeting since the AGM, they were required to elect a Chair and Vice Chair. PM confirmed that he was content to continue in the role of Chair. DC subsequently proposed PM as Chair, which was seconded by GM</p> <p>Agreed all.</p> <p>JD then proposed that John Warman should continue as Vice Chair. This was seconded by WD.</p> <p>Agreed all subject to John Warman being content to continue in the role.</p> <p>Secretary's Note: John Warman has confirmed that he is content to continue as Vice Chair.</p>																	
EB 18/05a	Minutes of the Previous Meeting Held on the 18 th October 2017 - Accuracy	Person Responsible															
<p>There were no inaccuracies raised. The minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting.</p> <p>Proposed: JD Seconded GW</p>																	

EB 18/06	Disqualification From Membership	Person Responsible
IAW the Articles this item is to be dealt with immediately after the accuracy of the previous minutes and before matters arising. It was agreed that this matter should remain confidential at least until the process was completed. A record has been prepared under separate cover.		
EB 18/05b	Minutes of the Previous Meeting Held on the 18th October 2017 - Matters Arising Not on the Agenda	Person Responsible
Adam Ferhani joined the meeting at this point.		
GG referred the Board members to the table of actions from the previous meeting (attached):		
EB 17/21 - Membership of APHA to be raised with Local Government Association (LGA): WD reported that the LGA were very supportive of the Association and that it would encourage membership of APHA and also lobby MPs in our support.		
EB 17/28 - Contact International Development Committee: PM reminded the Board that he wrote to the permanent Secretary of the International Development Committee in order to attempt to secure funding to develop and deliver port health training overseas. There has been no response; he subsequently contacted Gavin Robinson MP and had a response that he will take the matter up on our behalf.		
EB 17/51 - a. Make contact with political head of Guernsey re membership: JD reported that he had written to states of Guernsey and had got no reply. He had since uncovered the name of the relevant Committee responsible in the States of Guernsey and would follow up. GM mentioned that Guernsey did not have an Authorised port for the issue of Ships Sanitation certificates although it was pointed out that they did have an airport which meant that it probable that PLaN Membership would be more appropriate. It was agreed that it was key not to lose more members so GG was tasked to contact Tobin Cook at Guernsey to offer PLaN membership .		
Action: GG to contact Tobin Cook regarding PLaN membership of APHA		GG
EB 17/51 - b. Assist Drew McClenaghan with recruiting NI Members: PM then mentioned that he had been in touch with two councillors in Dublin with a view to encouraging membership and that he was making best use of his political contacts in the province. He will continue to work on it.		PM
EB 18/07	Minutes of Overview & Scrutiny Committee Meeting 21st November 2017 - Matters Not on the Agenda	Person Responsible
KM reported that he had had a response from Steve Hunt with regards his database of Councillors and the proceeded to read out the email. In summary, the original database had been superseded by a database of Councils UK wide and current members. It can be used to identify a particular council and search for new members. Steve Hunt offered to send the links to the database should they be required. It was agreed that the database may prove useful and KM should request the links.		KM
GG reported that he had been in contact with Highland Council with regards elected member representation and as a result found out that Clifford Smith who sat on O&S was off work long term sick. He had discussed whether there was a possibility of a temporary replacement had followed it up with an email explaining about the constitution of the Association. The Board agreed to wish Clifford a speedy recovery.		GG
GG asked KM whether he had discussed contacting the chair of Mersey PHA with PM with a view to securing their membership. KM briefed the Board on the actions he had taken in relation to engaging with Elected Members of Mersey PHA but had only had limited success. PM said that he would contact the Chair of Mersey PHA using social media in order to establish lines of communication.		

Action: PM to contact Chair of Mersey PHA using social media		PM
EB 18/08	Administration	Person Responsible
<p>GG reported that whilst the situation with regards to the delivery of finance support was improving, it was still the case that Medway were undertaking little, if any, of the Administration task with the bulk of the work being carried out between himself and Swansea PHA. GG had discussed this with GM and it seemed that the solution was for Swansea PHA to formally pick up the Administration element of the SLA with Medway Council as well as the funding so that Swansea are paid for the work that they do. He had mentioned the proposal to DC who had agreed to discuss it with the Phil Watts Head of Finance at Medway Council. DC confirmed that he had discussed it with Phil Watts and had mentioned that, because it was 50% of the work, it should attract 50% of the funding. DC proposed that GG take the lead on transferring the administrative task to Swansea PHA and liaise with Medway council and GM.</p> <p>Agreed All</p> <p>Action: GG liaise with Medway Council and Swansea Port Health Authority to transfer the APHA Administration task.</p>		GG
EB 18/09	APHA Financial Report and Accounts	Person Responsible
<p>Expenditure & Income</p> <p>GG referred to the Expenditure and Income reports that detailed transactions up until 30 Dec 17 and asked if there were any questions. PM said that he was pleased that the report was now in a much easily accessible format and simple to understand but did ask what had happened to the advertising revenue for the handbook. GG explained that for accounting purposes Lansdowne billed APHA for our share of the cost of the Handbook and were required to invoice them for the Advertising revenue. He understood that the Finance team were following this up. The figures were as follows:</p> <p>Handbook Cost: £5460.00 Advertising Revenue: £3123.50</p> <p>Overall cost to APHA £2336.60</p> <p>This was what the Association was expecting. Five individual copies of the handbook had also been sold and we were seeking to promote it at every opportunity in order to recover our costs.</p> <p>There were no other questions relating to either income or expenditure, GG asked the Board to confirm that the expenditure listed was both legitimate and justified.</p> <p>Agreed all.</p> <p>DC said that he was concerned that GG was not being paid for the amount of work that he was doing because he would often be working 4/5 days a week but only being paid for 2 of them and stressed that GG should be recompensed for the work he was actually doing. PM replied that whilst appreciated the work that GG did and would like to ensure that he was paid for the hours actually worked, the state of the APHA finances prevented this. WD said that APHA should look to try and recompense in other ways and cited the example of a Parish Clerk in his authority who often did a lot more than contracted and so was given 2 weeks off over Christmas and back paid for 30 hours to catch up. WD also stressed the need</p>		

for a succession plan. GG said that he attempted to take time off over the Christmas period but even though he worked reduced hours, some tasks still needed to be done such as preparing the papers for today's meeting. Such asks could not be left. GM argued that APHA needs more officers to contribute to the workload. PM replied that he had asked repeatedly for officers to come forward but without success, it required political intervention.

Budget

GG reported that, in addition to the advertising revenue for the handbook, there were still approximately £2000 of membership fees outstanding that the Finance Team were confident in collecting as well as approximately £1000 of outstanding training invoices. This should improve the current balance by some £6000 to approximately £32000

GG explained that he had asked the Finance Team (FT) to project what the state of the finances would be by 31 Mar 18 and they were still working on this as well as a budget for 2018/19. In the absence of more precise figures GG had done a rough calculation and estimated that the figure at year end would be approximately the annual running cost for APHA was in the region of £43000; if all memberships are renewed next year it would only raise only £27,430 which would present a shortfall of £15,570. Whilst this would probably be covered by our current funds, APHA could not continue running a deficit. He then presented figures of how the situation would be changed by increasing the membership fees but even with a 20% increase, the deficit would be approximately £10,000. He pointed out that without an improvement in the financial situation the Board may have to take the decision to close the Association but that they should be in a position to take that decision by the AGM in October. He then asked the Board to consider whether there should be an increase in membership fees.

GM said the Local Government finances are stretched and that to survive, we have to grow the membership. It would not be fair on existing members to levy a huge increase in fees because of the lack of members. GG pointed out that there had been no increase in the fees since 2014 and even though inflation had been low, it had now increased to 3.9% and at some point the fees would have to be increase for the association to be sustainable. DC said in the grand scheme of things of a council budget, £1000 is a negligible amount. JD agreed with GM in that it was inappropriate for existing members to shoulder this burden and asked about a Government Grant. KM said that they would not be interested. WD said that his PHA run there own budget and could pay more. JD then proposed that there should be no increase in the membership fees for 2018/19; it was seconded by GM.

Agreed all bar 1, WD.

Action: GG to advise the FT that there were to be no increase in membership fees for 2018/19. FT to send out membership renewal notices.

GG/FT

GG then asked if a Board member would be prepared to investigate how to secure a central government grant. WD volunteered.

Action: WD to investigate how to secure a central government grant.

WD

WD then suggested that the situation would be resolved if it was compulsory for PHAs to be members of APHA. JD suggested that it would need legislation. PM said that it could be the basis of a question to the SofS.

EB 18/10	Membership and Renewals	Person Responsible
<p>GG explained that some decisions were taken at the informal joint meeting of the Executive Board and O&S Committee held on 21 Nov 17 before the AGM were required to be ratified. He referred to the notes of the meeting that were include in the papers that were distributed.</p> <p>Membership Incentive/Marketing: <i>It was agreed that new Members (or re-joining Members) who joined after 1 January 2018 would have their Membership period extended until 31 March 2019 i.e. up to 15 months Membership for the current annual fee.</i></p> <p>This decision was ratified by the Board.</p> <p>Agreed all.</p> <p>KM confirmed that the Board of Manchester PHA had voted not to renew their membership of the Association at this time but would keep the matter under review and reconsider next year. GG then referred the Board to the notes of the informal meeting held before the AGM where the question of the criteria for PLaN Membership was discussed. Namely:</p> <p><i>In light of the impending decision by Manchester PHA's Board on APHA Membership, there was some considerable discussion as to what would constitute a small port for the purposes of PLaN Membership. Views on whether APHA should implement the historic definition of Ports not authorised to issue Ships Sanitation Certificates; allowing any port PLaN Membership and those Authorities responsible for one port were aired. No final decision was taken but it was decided that, given its size and the number of Riparian Authorities that it represented, Manchester PHA could not be classed as a small port. This issue required further thought and discussion to ensure that a definition that met existing PLaN member authorities, as well as being fair and reasonable to all, was determined.</i></p> <p>GG said that he had thought about this issue and had concluded that APHA should encourage all LAs with responsibilities for ports to be Corporate Members but had to accept that in some circumstances budgetary constraints would render Corporate Membership unviable especially when there is very limited port health work undertaken. The question would be how to define "limited port health work". He proposed that it should be based on the number of officer hours employed on port health duties and to gauge what this figure should be, he had started to contact the existing PLaN Members and, for example, Boston BC confirmed that it was the equivalent of ½ to one day a month. The Board agreed that this work should continue so that an appropriate figure could be determined.</p> <p>Action: GG to contact PLaN member Authorities in order to be able to propose a criteria for PLaN Membership.</p> <p>GG reported that here had been continuing success with recruiting new members in Northern Ireland; in addition to Newrey, Mourne and Down joining as Corporate Members, Mid and East Antrim BC and Antrim & Newtown Abbey BC have joined as PLaN Members so APHA was progressing in the establishment of a Northern Ireland PLaN Group.</p> <p>There was also further good news. The Borough of Poole had decided to rejoin the Association as PLaN Members. Colin Macdonald of N Tyneside PHA attended the AGM and Training Event and was impressed not only by the event but by the significant progress made in turning the Association around such that he will be recommending to his Board that they rejoin APHA. The T&F Gp have been assisting him in the preparation of his report by providing copies of working documents.</p> <p>GG said that he had been invited to a meeting with Karen Wheeler who was DG of Cross Government Border Co-operation; she was keen to ensure that APHA was involved in</p>		<p>GG</p>

	<p>discussions regarding Brexit issues at the Ports of entry. As she was already using meetings with the Big Ports Group as the forum for discussions she would ask that APHA be represented at future meetings. On the basis of this GG has had a conversation with Jon Avern of the City of London when the question of London rejoining APHA was discussed. Jon said that he would pass the decision to Gavin Steadman who was his head of port health and had asked GG to email him on this issue. GG asked the Board to support this action.</p> <p>Agreed All</p> <p>Action: GG to email Jon Avern re attendance at Big Ports Group and rejoining APHA</p>	GG
EB 18/11	Task & Finish Group Action PLaN	Person Responsible
	<p>a. The 2018/19 Handbook Distribution: GG explained that the Board were required to ratify the decisions taken at the informal meeting in respect of the Handbook charges and distribution. Nameley:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>a. Corporate Members - One full box free of 70 books. Thereafter £3 per book plus appropriate charge to cover P&P.</i> <i>b. Associate Members - As many copies as required up to and including one full box of 70 copies. Thereafter £3 per book plus appropriate charge to cover P&P.</i> <i>c. PLaN Members - Sold at cost of £3 per book plus appropriate charge to cover P&P.</i> <i>d. Non-members - Sold at cost of £5 per book plus appropriate charge to cover P&P.</i> <p><i>There was some discussion regarding using the handbook for marketing purposes and it was agreed that the T&F group could use their discretion in distributing free copies for the purposes of marketing the Association. Such distribution included but was not limited to targeting lapsed and non-members as well as promoting the Association with Governmental and non-Governmental bodies such as PHE etc.</i></p> <p>The decision was ratified by the Board.</p> <p>Agreed All</p> <p>GM explained that she had drafted 3 letters to accompany the handbook for Corporate Members, PLaN Members and non-members. The plan was to distribute a free copy to PLaN and non-members inviting them to purchase more and at the same time include the <i>Benefits of Membership</i>. GM added that there should be a separate letter to those Authorities who had left in the past year or even target the non-member authorities of active sea ports. There was some discussion regarding who the letter and free copy should be sent to. It was finally agreed that a copy should be sent to Head of Public Protection (or equivalent) and Chair of Port Health committee, or equivalent.</p> <p>Agreed all</p> <p>Action: GM to arrange the distribution of handbooks together with covering letters and <i>Benefits of Membership</i> as indicated.</p> <p>b. Ships Sanitation Inspection Charges GG referred the Board to the Executive Summary</p>	GM

(attached) regarding these charges and asked the Board to approve the figure proposed by the T&F Gp.		
Agreed All		
c. East of England Ships Inspection Workshop For information GG briefed the Board on the progress in organising the next Ships Inspection Workshop which was to be held at Boston Borough Council on 23 February 2018. The event is booked and initial advertising had been distributed to targeted Ports in the East of England on 3 Jan 18. APHA had already received a booking for 2 places.		
EB 18/12	AGM/CPD Event	Person Responsible
GG confirmed that the Gascoigne Room had been booked at the Union Jack Club for the 18 th October 2018. A bit earlier than the previous 2 years but this was because of limited availability. He suggested, because booking the flat had been so successful last year, that APHA do the same for this year because it provided the dual advantages of providing a meeting space and accommodation for APHA funded personnel as well as an overall cost saving. KM said hat he was willing to book the flat on APHAs behalf but it did require a substantial deposit and would like to claim this back immediately after it was paid. PM replied that this would not be a problem.		
Action: KM to book the flat at the Union Jack Club on behalf of APHA for the nights of the 17 and 18 th October 2018.		KM
EB 18/13	Webmaster	Person Responsible
The Webmaster had been awarded a contract on new financial terms from 1 st November 2018. This was because of the intense activity leading up to the AGM last year that had prevented APHA testing the market. The Board considered it essential that APHA ensures best value and to that end should invite tenders at least for comparison. GG mentioned that the Webmaster is entitled to 3 months notice. PM suggested that this should be served by the end of the month with the work to identify other providers being completed in good time for the next Board meeting in April so that if there was a change, it could be effected at the end of the notice period.		
Agreed All		
Actions: PM to write to Webmaster and give notice; T&F Group to identify potential alternative providers and get costs.		PM/ T&FGp
EB 18/14	Political Engagement	Person Responsible
DC reported that he had met Neil Parish MP at the FSA reception and had followed this up with several emails but had not yet received a response. He said that continue to pursue.		
WD said that he would approach the MPs in River Tees PHA for support.		
There followed some discussion regarding which member of government to approach. It was decided that Michael Gove MP the SoS for Environment, Food and Rural affairs would be good starting point. JD agreed to write to him.		
Action: JD to write to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs		JD
PM then referred to the email that he had sent to Ruth Davidson SNP and her response (attached). He said that he had heard nothing et but would give it a week or 2 before following it up. He then said that APHA needs to maintain a list of MPs contact details so that we can contact and engage with the MPs that we know. GG replied that he had opened a		

spreadsheet to maintain this information.		
EB 18/15	Parliamentary Questions	Person Responsible
<p>PM said that APHA should follow up on the offers that he has had to table written question in both the House of Lords and Commons and demonstrate that it is advantageous to engage with the Association of Port Health Authorities. It would be useful to have more than one MP asking them. It was agreed that this was an appropriate course of action.</p> <p>Action: Board members should consider which MPs to be approached and potential questions.</p>		All
EB 18/16	Adam Ferhani: Brief on the content of his PhD proposal	Person Responsible
<p>GG then introduced Adam Ferhani, a PhD student who gave a brief on the subject of his thesis. Adam explained that, broadly speaking, his PhD research was concerned with analysing everyday routine health security practice and, because the overwhelming majority of academic literature is concerned with single, exceptional events, his research is intended to shed light on the day to day management of health security threats with an emphasis on the border. Hence his approach to APHA for assistance in making contact with those delivering health security at the border. DC said that this was great work and should break new ground. Following further discussion, it was agreed that the research was very worthwhile and that APHA should provide assistance in whatever capacity we could.</p> <p>Agreed All</p>		
EB 18/17	AOB	Person Responsible
<p>a. GG reported that his mobile phone was becoming obsolete because the operating system no longer supported some of the latest versions of its applications and sought approval to buy a replacement. As the Board had agreed that APHA would cover 50% of his phone costs, he wanted confirmation that he could buy a replacement on the same terms. He was not intending to purchase the latest model but aiming at a budget of no more than around £200. Following discussion, it was agreed.</p> <p>Agreed all</p> <p>b. For information, GG briefed the Board that the General Data Protection Regs come into effect in May 2018. It is a set of EU regulations that replaces the Data Protection Directive. The Data Protection Act (DPA) will be superseded by a new DPA that will enact the requirements of the Regulations. T&F Gp Member, Andrew McClenaghan, is actively engaged in ensuring that his LA complies with any new requirements and has kindly agreed to lead on it for APHA to ensure that we comply if and where appropriate.</p>		
EB 18/18	Meeting Schedule 2018	Person Responsible
<p>All meetings will be held in the Union Jack Club unless otherwise indicated.</p> <p>Executive Board</p> <p>12th April</p> <p>6th July at Belfast City Hall</p> <p>17th October</p> <p>O&S Committee</p> <p>7th February</p>		

16th May

1st August

14th November

APHA AGM 2018

The AGM will be held in the Union Jack Club on the 18th October 2018. There will be an informal joint meeting of the EB and O&S to discuss the AGM on the evening of the 17th October.

Close of meeting: There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 14.45

APHA EXECUTIVE BOARD

Executive Summary

Agenda Item:	EB 18/11c
Person Responsible:	Gary Gould (Exec Officer)
Title:	Ships Sanitation Inspection Fees 2018/19
Reference Documents:	

The Executive Board are required to set the Ships Sanitation Inspection Charges for the financial year 2018/19. It is proposed that they should be raised in line with the RPI rate of inflation for September 2017, rounded up to the nearest £5. September is chosen because it is the rate for this month that the Government uses for increases to benefits/pensions etc that are implemented for the next financial year.

According to the report from the [Office for National Statistics](#), the RPI annual rate of inflation to September 2017 was 3.9%. The old and new charges are tabulated below and, if approved, come into effect on 1st April 2018.

SHIP SANITATION INSPECTION CHARGES 2018/19

Gross Tonnage	Old Rate (2017)	New Rate (2018)
Up to 1000	85	90
1001 to 3000	120	125
3001 to 10000	180	190
10001 to 20000	235	245
20001 to 30000	305	320
Over 30000	360	375
Vessels with 50 – 1000 persons	360	375
Vessels with 1000 Persons	615	640
Extensions	55	60

Recommendations:

That the Executive Board agree the increase in fees as tabulated above.

Comments:

The Board approved these charges

Actions:	Date:	Person Responsible:
Promulgate to all ports		GG/Webmaster

Email Exchange Pat McCarthy and Ruth Davidson's Office:

From: Cook N (Nick) [mailto:Nick.Cook@parliament.scot] **On Behalf Of** Davidson R (Ruth), MSP
Sent: 14 December 2017 16:38
To: patmccarthy1@hotmail.com
Cc: Stewart A (Alexander), MSP <Alexander.Stewart.msp@parliament.scot>
Subject: RE: Association of Port Health Authorities

Dear Mr McCarthy,

Thank you for taking the time to write to me on behalf of the Association of Port Authorities.

I recognise the important role that Port Health Authorities play across the United Kingdom, in particular in relation to the integrity of imported foodstuff and disease prevention.

I am concerned to read that a number of members have failed to renew their membership of the authority, often citing local authority budget constraints in respect of permitted travel.

I recognise that reduced participation by Scottish members poses difficulties in respect of the association's expertise, knowledge and function.

With a view to further investigating your concerns over local authority travel restrictions, I have taken the liberty of passing your correspondence to my colleague, Alexander Stewart MSP, who is the Shadow Minister for Local Government here at Holyrood.

I trust that you will hear from Alexander in short order regarding this matter. If, for whatever reason, this proves not to be the case, please do come back to me.

Yours sincerely,

Ruth Davidson

Rt Hon Ruth Davidson MSP
Leader of the Scottish Conservatives
MSP for Edinburgh Central
Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

From: Pat McCarthy [mailto:patmccarthy1@hotmail.com]
Sent: 07 December 2017 13:54
To: Davidson R (Ruth), MSP <Ruth.Davidson.msp@parliament.scot>
Subject: Association of Port Health Authorities

Dear Ruth,

Private and Confidential

My name is Pat McCarthy I am the chairman of the Association of Port Health Authorities which is a UK wide organisation which was founded in 1898, I am also a former Lord Mayor of Belfast. The Association of Port Health Authorities is the only UK wide organisation representing the interests of Local Authorities and Port Health Authorities with responsibilities for health controls at sea and airports. Port health authorities are constituted with the primary objective of preventing the introduction into the country of dangerous epidemic, contagious and infectious diseases and ensuring the wholesomeness of imported food. There are members of the Association throughout the UK who actively work to share expertise and best practice to deliver a consistent and effective port health service.

The Association plays an important role in protecting public health through liaison with government departments and agencies, local authorities and internationally through the EU, the World Health Organisation and trade bodies. It contributes significantly to national and international policy development and keeps its members up to date with

changes in legislation and guidance. Over the last two years a number of our members in Scotland have failed to renew their membership sighting budgetary constraints as the reason, those who are still members in Scotland cannot attend meeting south of the boarder saying that their Local Authority has banned all travel outside of Scotland this has made it difficult for us as a body to function and share the expertise and knowledge, contagious and infectious do not stop at lines drawn on a map and with the onset of Brexit and the fall in the value of sterling we are the prospect of food fraud is a distinct possible.

I am making you aware of the situation in the hope that you could ask some questions in the Scottish Parliament to shine a light on the situation and maybe bring some influence to bear on party members on local authorities to give this matter some thought in the hope that they may reverse there discision on membership and travel.

I await your thoughts on this matter and hope you are able to help.

Yours Faithfully

Pat McCarthy MBE

Chairman APHA.

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