



Minutes of the SPLaN Meeting Held by Video Conference on 26th October 2022

12/22	Welcome	Person Responsible
With all attendees present, CS welcomed everyone including new attendees from Scottish Government and Food Standards Scotland.		
13/22	List of Attendees	Abbreviation
List of Attendees:		
	Authority	
Crawford Sibbald (Chair)	Falkirk Council	CSI
John Laird (Secretary)(JL)	Falkirk Council	JL
Lynne Bissett	Falkirk Council	LB
Alastair Douglas	Scottish Government	AD
Lucy Crichton	Scottish Government	LC
Alun Parry	Scottish Government	AP
Chloe Caborn	Food Standards Scotland	CC
Christopher Redman	Public Health Scotland	CR
Susana Ramosa	Animal Plant Health Agency	SR
Sam Walker(SW)	Orkney Islands Council	SW
David Robertson	Shetland Islands Council	DR
Christine Morrison	Western Isles Council	CM
Michael Lapsley	Inverclyde Council	ML
Richard Hyde	Fife Council	RH
Clare Ireland	Fife Council	CI
Andrea Carson	Aberdeen City Council	AC
Clifford Smith	Highland Council	CSM
Jacqueline Petrie	Dundee City Council	PK
Paul Kerr	City of Edinburgh Council	JP
Heather Dick	City of Edinburgh Council	HD
Charlie Roger	City of Edinburgh Council	CRO
Ann Dalziel	City of Edinburgh Council	ADZ
Steven Thomson	Angus Council	ST
Kirsty McGuigan	Dumfries and Galloway Council	KM
Sabrina Kelly	South Ayrshire Council	SK
Minutes taken by: JL		
14/22	Apologies for Absence	Person Responsible
Apologies received from:		
Gary Foubister, Orkney Islands Council		
Lorna McCoul, Glasgow City Council		
Lisa McCann, Fife Council		
Craig Somers, Dundee City Council		
Pauline Reid, South Ayrshire Council		
John Grant, Aberdeenshire Council		

15/22	Minutes of Last Meeting	Person Responsible
The minutes of the last meeting were accepted. Actions included in agenda.		All
16/22	Re-election of Chair and Secretary	
<p>There were no names put forward since the last meeting for the roles of Chair and Secretary. A lengthy discussion took place with no volunteers forthcoming. It was decided that this item would be discussed during AOB but outcome of lengthy discussions and decisions made during AOB are summarised below:</p> <p>Clifford Smith, Highland Council proposed that he take on the role as Chair going forward taking over from Crawford Sibbald, Falkirk Council. This was supported by SPLaN Members.</p> <p>Richard Hyde, Fife Council offered to take on the role as Secretary on a trial 6 month period with support from JL.</p> <p>Thanks were given to both CSI and JL for their support to SPLaN during their tenure.</p>		
17/22	APHA Executive Board Representation	Person Responsible
It was agreed that JL continue for now as the SPLaN executive board representative.		
18/22	APHA/SPLaN Update	Person Responsible
JL gave an APHA update covering items from the Executive Board Meeting held in September and informed everyone that he would be attending the APHA AGM on 17th November. He reminded everyone that the Executive Board Meeting Minutes can be found in the Members Area of the APHA website.		
19/22	Public Health Scotland Update	Person Responsible
<p>A Border Health Working Group has been set up at UK level involving public health, food standards, and animal and plant health. Early stages yet with only 2 meetings held. Will feed more details as become available. Discussion of regulations has been initiated in this group.</p> <p>UK legislation addressing border measures is planned for next year. UKHSA have submitted a proposal looking at roles and responsibilities with aim of strengthening port health. PHS will feedback on details as they become available. UKHSA looking for DA support.</p> <p>WHO are looking for a return under IHR on ports capability. There is a shorter time for turnaround on this than was initially hoped. This is an annual return and ports is only one of the capacities under scrutiny. CR may come to SPLaN members to discuss aspects if time allows.</p> <p>Vector and the risk of vector borne diseases is still a topic under discussion. PHS will discuss with UKHSA entomology group on any port plans that may be of interest to SPLaN and public health.</p> <p>Ebola in Uganda continues with over 100 cases and 50 deaths to date. Seven districts are affected including Kampala. Uganda MoH are responding. Spread to Kampala is concerning and UKHSA/ PHS are keeping situation under scrutiny.</p>		

20/22	Scottish Government Update	Person Responsible
<p>AP gave an update from Scottish Government.</p> <p>SG officials are engaging with UKHSA on the potential of a Borders Bill over the coming 12 – 18 months. In this Bill, the Ships and Aircraft Public Health regulations would be reviewed and updated. This would assist in clarifying the anomalies over the pandemic about where responsibilities lie when dealing with an outbreak on a cruise ship docked at ports across Scotland. SG officials are happy to continue to attend SPLaN and update members accordingly.</p>		
21/22	BCP/Imports Update	Person Responsible
<p>CC from Food Standards Scotland gave an update about the Target Operating Model. Work is ongoing and is still looking at roll out for end of 2023. There is a risk matrix which is looking at low, medium and high risk commodities and FSS, FSA and DEFRA are currently in talks with the UK Cabinet office regarding biosecurity issues.</p> <p>It was confirmed that we believe that the TOM will replace the Border Operating Model (BOM).</p> <p>There has been talks over whether the low-risk category could contain POAO products (ie – shelf stable products like tinned fish etc) and if this was the case how would this work. Still unaware how any of the above will affect Local Authorities but we will continue to update colleagues as soon as any information becomes apparent.</p> <p>CS asked with the free ports that are coming on stream would they tie in with BCP status because some of them will probably not be ready for BCP status if they apply for Freeport status. CC said that this was not something that she was aware of or looking at the moment but she agreed to go away and look at it and do a bit of research and distribute information to members before the next meeting.</p>		CC
22/22	African Swine Fever	Person Responsible
<p>A paper was received from LC, Scottish Government regarding Personal imports of products of animal origin – ASF risk. This was distributed to SPLaN members prior to the meeting.</p> <p>This paper sets out the current risks presented by products of animal origin (PoAO) personally imported to Scotland from across the world. It gives a summary of the currently risks PoAO constitutes and the current enforcement arrangements in place with Border Force and future plans to align the enforcement arrangements with England and Wales.</p> <p>AD, Scottish Government went into a bit more detail:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • setting out current risks posed by PoAO personally imported to Scotland from across the world. • setting out the current enforcement arrangements in place with Border Force for non EU and EU passengers • Setting out future plans to align parts of the enforcement arrangements with England and Wales. • AD covered enforcement and outlined the next steps which he has summarised below: 		AD

Enforcement

Detection and seizure of illegal PoAO from 3rd countries is undertaken by BF. Products are seized, stored in a freezer and destroyed. Any POAO seizures, irrespective of country of origin, greater than 5 Kg trigger an immediate notification to SG, APHA and FSS food crime unit. Although it is the role of LAs to enforce non-compliance APHA's enforcements and investigations team currently follow up every seizure over 5 Kg with a visit to gain insights into why someone has attempted to import the illegal products, provide them with education and issue a warning letter. If there are any links to food businesses the FSS food crime unit will also conduct an investigation. It is recognised work needs to be undertaken between SG (to improve guidance) with BF (to improve notifications to LAs) and LAs to provide clarity on existing roles/ responsibilities.

Since the introduction of the new control measures on pork from the EU and wider EEA on 1 September, SG have agreed that BF will enforce the policy using powers under the Customs and Excise Management Act 1979 to seize or detain pork products that are imported into Scotland in breach of the prohibition under the SI and notify SG, APHA and FSS in a similar manner as an interim basis.

As BF is a GB agency they require enforcement of this policy to be aligned across GB and SG have committed to continuing to explore alternative enforcement options, recognising that enforcement of the SI by Border Force under CEMA in Scotland is intended to be a short-term solution.

Next steps

This agenda item is part of our engagement with local authorities and groups such as this to:

- explore how enforcement of these EU POAO controls could be brought back to an authorised officer of the Scottish Ministers, as is already the case for POAO from 3rd countries.
- understand the impacts of taking on the enforcement activity and resourcing pressures on local authorities.
- materials required to support this work.
- We're also exploring options to introduce fixed penalty notices for range of animal health offences and illegal importation of PoAO is one of the offences planned for any future FPN regime.

CS highlighted potential issues with private food parcels being delivered to ships or getting delivered with the ship into the port. He said that it everyone should keep an eye out for personal imports of pork products especially on small coaster and cargo vessels that may have not been through any border control checks at all. He also informed everyone that Filipino crew traditionally have barbequed pork at Christmas so.

People coming in from China and other parts of Southeast Asia often bring meat in, in particular pork so CS agreed to vccvflag that to border force and that helps feed in their detection.

LC added that pork is the festive meat for Romanians and the biggest problems seen are illegal imports coming from Romania, which has no ASW control, through Dover and Northern Ireland.

LC said that SG were planning to try and get CEOs of airports and ports and across Scotland altogether to meet with the Chief Veterinary Officer and Chief Plant Health Officer to really try

	<p>and emphasise the importance of bio security, in particular to African Swine Fever. There is a need for port and airport operators to try and help with messaging and communication with passengers.</p> <p>JL asked about enforcement and would there be a requirement to have a local authority presence at ferry terminal ports and airports and have to issue fixed penalty notices.</p> <p>AD advised that there would be a process of evidence gathering to go through to form part of any prosecution. He advised that they have worked closely with the Strategy Group to determine what local authorities need regarding enforcement strategy guidance. He advised that there is nothing set in stone yet and before any proposal is taken forward discussions have to take place with the relevant local authorities to see how they might see a local strategy working.</p> <p>AD to forward draft enforcement strategy for consultation by SPLaN members. In the interim his plan is to take the proposal to the Animal Health and Welfare Strategy Group and have a discussion with them about what it is that we can do to make that that proposal work and understand what impact it might have.</p>	
23/22	Ship Sanitation Inspections/Risk Assessment	Person Responsible
	<p>CRO explained that they were still issuing their Ship Sanitation Certificates electronically and asked if any other ports were doing this. JL said that during Covid restrictions Falkirk Council were issuing extensions and signing and stamping the existing SSCEC electronically using Adobe stamping pallette and locking the document before emailing the certificate. It was agreed that scanning a physically stamped SCCEC and sending as a pdf attachment was acceptable. Most ships tend to scan all their documents on receipt and print them off for their document folders. It was agreed that outwith covid restrictions it is still best practice to provide a paper hard copy SCEC for the vessel.</p> <p>CS highlighted an issue that he come across with crew members growing hydroponic plants in their cabin and had one occasion found mosquito larvae and a plant. It was easily resolved with the vector control measure sticking the hydroponic part in the microwave for 5 minutes.</p> <p>He advised everyone to be vigilant when carrying out vector control checks for mosquito larvae being present in water in tyres, which he is seeing a lot less of, and also for hydroponic plants in cabins.</p> <p>CS has had to respond to a couple of deaths onboard vessels. Highland Council works closely with their Health Protection Team, Procurator Fiscals Service and Police Scotland to make sure that persons boarding the vessel are not at risk of infection. In most instances Police Scotland take over the investigation and responsibility for the body.</p> <p>CS also reported that they had a private aircraft trying to fly into Inverness airport, a very small airport which not a designed for any type of controls such as rabies. The pilot requested to land and keep the animal on board for 12 hours and then fly out again. This request is refused with the support of colleagues in the APHA and Border Force which they work closely with.</p>	

24/22	Cruise Update	Person Responsible
<p>CSI asked for an update from those present with cruise ship terminals but generally agreed that cruise industry back to business as usual.</p> <p>There was discussion as to the value of having a wash-up meeting to discuss what went well and not so well during the pandemic. Meeting to be organised by JL/RH.</p>		
25/22	AOB	Person Responsible
<p>There was further discussion regarding the roles of and re-appointment of Chair and Secretary. See 16/22.</p> <p>There was also a discussion regarding the frequency of meetings and Terms of Reference for SPLaN meetings. JL to determine if ToRs exist and obtain a copy.</p>		JL
26/22	Date of Next Meeting	Person Responsible
<p>Next meeting date to be confirmed but most likely to be in April 2023.</p>		RH



J Laird
Secretary
SPLaN

Table of Actions arising from SPLaN Meetings		
Ref	Action	Completed/Comments
Actions from the SPLaN Meeting held on 26 October 2022		
21/22	CC, FSS to have a look at how free port status will fit in with BCP status.	
22/22	AD to forward draft African Swine Fever enforcement strategy for consultation by SPLaN members.	
24/22	JL to arrange a post Covid Cruise Meeting.	
25/22	JL to determine if ToRs exist for SPLaN Meeting.	
26/22	RH to arrange next SPLaN Meeting.	