

## DIRECTORS OF PUBLIC PROTECTION WALES

### Notes from the Port Health Expert Panel/Wales PLaN Meeting

Teleconference  
on 20<sup>th</sup> Jan 2023

#### Present

Simon Fuller (Chair)	Ynys Mon Council
Carwyn Thomas (Sec)	Pembrokeshire Council
Richard Firth	PHW
Huw Brunt	Welsh Gov
Malgorzata Dabrowska-Jones	Welsh Gov
Owain Williams	SRS
Rhys Harries	Swansea Council
Lindsay Horth	Newport Council
Paul Lindsay	Flintshire Council
Jane Peatey	SRS
Owen Lewis	FSA
Huw Turner	FSA
Peter Jones	WG

Item	Matter	Action
1	<p><b>Welcome &amp; introductions (including apologies)</b> The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked all for joining.</p>	
2	<p><b>WG update (HB)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) TOM update: WG and FSA currently in conversation with UK Gov and DEFRA. SF: date moved on to March by all accounts.</li> <li>ii) UK Govt and UKHSA – review of PH legislation (come back to it).</li> <li>iii) Review of HP in Wales. Meetings planned to progress action of review. Keep an eye on Port Health issues. HB to circulate review doc. ACTION</li> </ul> <p><b>MDJ:</b> (Chief Vet’s Office) – team update: 5 individuals in EUTT (EU Trade and Transition Team). SPS controls in free trade agreements, linked in with UK Gov in this – currently ongoing negotiations with Canada, Mexico and /Greenland. Welsh Gov feed into the discussions. TOM is being worked on. “Kept Animals Bill” – another piece of work the team is contributing to; possible restrictions on imports of pets: dogs, cats, ferrets – ongoing work. 5 animals per</p>	<b>HB</b>

	vehicle, as opposed to per person.	
3	<p><b>FSA update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) OL – import controls HRFNAO – comms earlier this week. 26 amendments – list of commodities.</li> <li>ii) Training courses - Shellfish purification coming up – 2 spaces left. Contact Ann Rodway if interested.</li> <li>iii) HT – Romanian pork (ASF) – important to report to “Food Crime” or IDB.</li> </ul> <p>SF – legislation update –review of HRFNAO? – Yes. OL to circulate UK update to EC 1793.</p> <p>LH: High risk feed too? OL: yes.</p>	<b>OL</b>
4	<p><b>PHA/LA updates/incidents:</b></p> <p><b>SF (Ynys Môn):</b> cruise ship calls this year: 65. Water sampling – legionella issue. BCP – monitoring – plans on paper – no date.</p> <p><b>PL (Flintshire):</b> quiet all round</p> <p><b>LH (Newport):</b> no food imports. Feed: mostly from outside EU – deal with FSA on that. OL: are these goods outside relevant legislation? LH: yes.</p> <p><b>RH (Swansea):</b> quiet, no SSCs since before Xmas. Enquiry from business wanting to grow shrimp.</p> <p><b>JP (SRS):</b> roadway to recovery following covid. Airport: Restarted mosquito survey surveillance in Sept – none identified. Restart in April. Seaport: restarted boarding vessels from 3<sup>rd</sup> countries. Some new staff in PH. APHA training used. New CCDC from PHW for SRS. Walk around the airport to talk through potential incidents. ASF incidents also – will cover later. HB: issue previously re. UKHSA’s approach to contact tracing. Was there any update? RF: for international travel contact tracing team (COVID), but to contact Heathrow Control Unit – will follow up arrangements (as pre-covid). Asked yesterday if this is correct procedure. Hoping to hear back soon. HB: Any need to update/revisit to make sure we’re all on the same page? To ensure fit for purpose. JP: nothing officially withdrawn following covid, so lack of clarity</p>	<b>SF</b>

	<p>now. "Ghost process" in case it needs to be brought back at speed.</p> <p>Would need to get involved if serious incident, e.g. passengers from China.</p> <p>RF: not much support for contact tracing now, e.g. by the time you learn of it, it's out in the community. Local policies for serious incidents may be required.</p> <p>JP: more relevant to SRS as Cardiff/Vale hosted the international travellers contact tracing for Wales.</p> <p>HB: do we need an action to revisit previous plans and dust off so that they are fit for purpose for e.g. contact tracing?</p> <p>JP: comms network is vital so we all know who/where to go in the event of incident; pathway/flowchart important.</p> <p>SF: cross over with DPPW ID team. Make contact to avoid duplication.</p> <p>ACTION: RF and JP to work through and put out to consult. Decide if they need help - small task &amp; finish group – ask if needed.</p> <p><b>CT (Pembs)</b> – general update re. few incidents at the port. TB case recently – interesting case.</p> <p>JP: other crew affected? No.</p> <p>RF: only test others if confirmed case. Treatment: course of antibiotics (6 months) but after 2 weeks – non-infectious.</p> <p>CT: Local accommodation was an issue again, as it was during covid.</p>	<b>RF/JP</b>
<b>5</b>	<p><b>WG Update - resume</b></p> <p>Arising issues: Freeports: Anglesey, Pembroke, Cardiff. WG to decide.</p> <p>. Stena is looking at options with the development of Holyhead Port and the Freeport offers opportunities that the Council is backing.</p>	
<b>6</b>	<p><b>PHW update (RF)</b></p> <p>HP review:</p> <p>Monkeypox: return to normal – might get sporadic cases.</p> <p>COVID in China: direct flight testing at Heathrow. 102 tested, 3 positives. Sent for screening, no results yet.</p> <p>Japan and China data marries up – good news, variation of omicron.</p> <p>Proposal (UKHSA) to improve/oversee Port Health in England. UKHSA responsible for setting minimum standards. Relevant to Wales as cross over stds.</p> <p>Border Bill – waiting cabinet approval.</p> <p>England only or more UK wide?? TBC.</p> <p>One of the drivers: 9 regions in England – created difficulties during covid.</p> <p>In Wales, smaller, so worked better.</p>	

	<p>Challenge around setting stds, e.g. secondary care, which we don't have control over.  Link to MCA/CAA etc. – no public health remit, but relevant to discussions.  Grateful if everyone could complete feedback issued prior to meeting.  2<sup>nd</sup> proposal: update PH(S)Regs – PMO definitions etc. – doesn't reflect reality any more.  If amend – take opportunity to take lessons from covid to do full scale review of regs.</p> <p>HB: re. 1<sup>st</sup> point UKHSA – level of detail not forthcoming.  Wales different to England. Need to get on front foot and get our opinion on it, i.e. needs to be fit for purpose for Wales.  RF: opportunity to direct UKHSA.  JP: any detail on this? Difficult to comment without it.  RF: unlikely. No enforcement, e.g. for non-submission of MDoH.  ACTION: responses to Richard</p> <p>PJ: waiting for detail. Initially it was England only but later UK-wide.  Scot/Wales/Ire – concerned by this. Continue to chase details. Difficult to provide reasoned discussion when you don't know the detail.  JP: change in def. of PMO – some requirements say there's a need for medical assessment.  RF: clarity on roles/resps needed, e.g. primary/secondary care.  OW: medical assessment needs to be done quickly – our experience at airport.  CT: will it be a full review of regs or just PMO function?  RF: unclear. PMO focus, but hopefully full review will follow.  SF: timescale?  RF: not clear, but asap please for responses.</p>	<b>All</b>
7	<p><b>African Swine Fever</b>  SF: general update. England – funded and fully staffed.  Wales – BF led. Joint working.  SF – Anglesey – nothing found. No plans implemented – looking to do something in early Feb.</p> <p>CT: agreement made with BF. Nothing found to date.</p> <p>JP: airport – no commercial – personal imports only. 2 flights/week from Bucharest.  Some instance of pork in suitcases.  Couple of cases:  i. 12.4 kg of pork (frozen) &amp; turkey neck (Dec)  ii. 9.0kg pork (Jan)  iii. 6.4kg pork (last week)</p>	

	<p>Border Force – voluntary surrender ideal, but cannot force this. Coming off plane – “something to declare” or “nothing to declare”, i.e. if “nothing” they’ve more or less made their decision, but BF will ask the question.</p> <p>Issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. 2kg exemption whether labelled or not</li> <li>ii. Cross-contamination if other meat/products there too, e.g. turkey. Yes, cross contamination, so can apply TARP.</li> <li>iii. 2kg per person or per suitcase?? Determine by BF.</li> <li>iv. Service of notice/letter – if foreign? Gosia to take back to national meeting.</li> </ul> <p>MDJ: definition “serious risk to animal health”. The seriousness of the risk would have to be determined. A question of why 1.5kg of pork is ok, and 1.5kg of pork mixed with turkey is not?</p> <p>Origin country is relevant due to varying ASF levels between EU countries, e.g. Romania v France</p> <p>HB: do we know the lifespan of the special provisions? Also, review planned? When?</p> <p>MDJ: being looked at, but no date for review yet.</p> <p>JP: returns sheet. Do we need to send nil returns? SF/MDJ: only return to report on seizures. DEFRA has been informed that Wales will not be sending NIL returns.</p>	<b>MDJ</b>
8	<p><b>APHA update</b> Election of rep. All agreed that Simon to continue.</p>	
9	<p><b>AOB</b> none</p>	
10	<p><b>Next meeting</b> May 2023 – Teams (TBC) CT to look at suitable dates.</p>	<b>CT</b>