

DIRECTORS OF PUBLIC PROTECTION WALES

Notes from the Port Health Expert Panel/Wales PLaN Meeting

Teams Meeting
on 26th May 2023

Present

Simon Fuller (Chair) Ynys Mon Council
Richard Firth Public Health Wales
Huw Brunt Welsh Government (Public Health)
Malgorzata Dabrowska-Jones Welsh Government (OCVO)
Rhys Harries Swansea Council
Lindsay Horth Newport Council TS
Animal Feed lead Wales
Paul Lindsay Flintshire Council
Jane Peaty SRS
Owen Lewis Food Standards Agency
Peter Jones Welsh Government (Public Health)
Sarah Johns Welsh Local Government Association

Rhys Thomas Newport Council

Additional Attendees

Rebecca Pomeroy Wrexham, Chair of Food Expert Panel
Daniel Morelli DPPW lead on Food / Port Health – Torfaen Council

Guest Speakers

Peter Ryland WG
Colin Johnstone UKHSA

Apologies

Huw Turner FSA
Carwyn Williams
Pembrokeshire Council

Item	Matter	Action
1	<p>Welcome & introductions (including apologies) The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked all for joining.</p>	
2	<p>WG update (HB) HB/MDJ 4 nations working -Health Protection Committee- Govt and PH agencies discussing proposals including UKHSA's roles and responsibilities. Few new objectives for work group which needs to be given thought to. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mapping roles and responsibilities around UK - Review legislation with working group. - Assess UK's core capabilities against standards for entry points. - Covid lessons learned which will feed into other objectives. <p>Update in July but need for input from PH Expert Panel</p> <p>MDG- ongoing work on the 4-nation approach to border control and the risk categorisation of Products of Animal Origin (POAO) to determine frequency of Border Checks.</p> <p>Ongoing simplification of Export Health Certificates (EHC)</p> <p>Another work stream is a plan for Revised Personal Imports Policy being developed as there are gaps in laws for African Swine Fever.</p>	
3	<p>FSA update OL Perennial issue with imports from US</p> <p>Peanut contamination of certain spices</p> <p>Funding available for sampling imported foods- comms to be sent shortly.</p> <p>PL advised of issues with American Prime drinks (labelling in fl oz) which is <u>non-compliant</u> compared to another UK version which has authorised additives which is compliant with all law.</p> <p>3.1 HB queried whether letter needs to be issued by FSA like glycerol in slushies.</p> <p>National Food Crime Unit – Huw Turner</p> <p>E-Learning Courses</p> <p>Introduction to Imported Food and Official Controls</p> <p>Imported Foods: Sampling</p> <p>Online Food Safety Training</p>	<p>OL</p> <p>HT</p>

	<p><u>US Confectionary</u> - There is potential for US goods arriving via Rotterdam without clearance, so far, no evidence for this occurring. Please look out for this and notify FSA if this is occurring.</p> <p><u>Pork Products from countries affected by ASF.</u></p> <p>Romanian pork and pork products are subject to restrictions due to that country being within the highest risk zone of identified African Swine fever risk (ASF). The products bear a hexagonal health/ID mark indicating the product is only permitted for the domestic Romanian market and that they should not be distributed outside Romania. Communication File FSA Communications (food.gov.uk)</p>
4	<p>PHA/LA updates/incidents:</p> <p>RM-relatively quiet at Newport. Change in management and structure J Keen no longer Head of Services.</p> <p>JP- back to normal in SRS although quiet at seaports. Completing sanitation certificates and boarding vessels from third countries</p> <p>PL- Flintshire-Austin quiet previously linked to windfarms and jumbos.</p> <p>RH- Swansea quiet. PT dock becoming part of freeport with Pembroke unsure implications moving forward.</p> <p>LH- Newport -animal feed imports coming in from Turkey to Newport. Issues with time that sampling is taking. Please advise if any animal feed imports coming into other ports.</p> <p>SF- Anglesey will be having a BCP in future Cabinet office agreed that Holyhead was appropriate. Size and design still under review. Revised timeline for Border checks</p> <p>31.10.23 Central Defra team set up to screen a % of national import documentation.</p> <p>However, on 31.01.24 Welsh Authorities have been told that they will be undertaking this screening role and will be picking up documentary checks from the DEFRA hub which will close as staff return to full time work with their employing port authorities.</p> <p>Other matters - Cruise ships returning at a pace with 60-65 coming into port between April and October</p> <p>Freeport – no known impact on port health or TS roles</p> <p>BP- FH Expert Panel group representative- looking at ABC hygiene delivery model Consultation ends in June. Attended an Import group meeting regarding TOM and concerned that FH officers would need to pick up imported food issues inland during inspections rather than at the ports.</p> <p>SJ-joined LGA as Policy officer for WLGA Wales from Pembs. Attending to establish how work of group can be supported.</p>

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	<p>RP – Food Safety Expert Panel – raised concern with the impact of imported foods from Europe and Rest of World due to reduced border Enforcement.</p>	
5	<p><u>PHW update-RF</u></p> <p>Started looking at work on International Health Standards. Definition and appointment of port medical officer (PMO). Previous blanket approach to appoint CCDCs as PMOs but portion of workforce not medically qualified and those who are medically qualified may have issues with current competency.</p> <p>Issue experienced – Pembs / PHW no process in place to attend ship where someone had died. This has prompted a review of capability of the existing PHW team. (Coverage south but no one physically in North Wales.) and availability / medical background. PHW reviewing.</p> <p>Other issues</p> <p>The sudden repatriation of Sudanese /UK nationals had encountered flights being diverted to different airports and impact on receiving LA's due to issue of need to house influx of homeless people. No health issues encountered.</p>	

	<p>Monkeypox- increase in cases linked to travel and Pride events. PJ advised communications being developed encouraging take up of vaccine in eligible community. No cases in Wales.</p> <p>RT raised issue of PHW rota. CD Panel set out list of recommendations for PHW to look at for participants on the rota. Expressed need for ownership of list of people should be responsibility of PHW to ensure correctly designated.</p> <p>Port medical officer – need to make a distinction from proper officer.</p> <p>ACTION: consider updating law to reflect current practices – Richard will keep the group updated about the review of the legislation. Offline meeting with RT and JP re Port Health Medical Officer</p> <p>Within EHW – SF to raise with comm disease panel about the Port Health EP overseeing the port medical officer as a separate and individual appointment as opposed to the proper officer merging into the proper officer role which is different.</p>	
5.1		RF
5.2		SF
6	<p>Presentation given by Colin Johnstone UKHSA about mosquito surveillance being undertaken by UKHSA due to concerns of migration of tiger mosquito Northwards in recent years. Looking for additional surveillance sites in Wales.</p> <p>65 cases identified in France of dengue fever in 2022.</p> <p>Mosquitoes likely to become a biting nuisance in UK first before vector of disease so surveillance important.</p> <p>Query made why disinsection not required on all European flights if mosquito present. HB to raise at Adaption plan for vector control.</p>  <p>UKHSA IMS.pptx</p>	HB
7.	<p>Presentation no. 2 given by Peter Ryland Director of Regional Investment and Borders Welsh Government. on Draft Target Operating Model (Borders -TOM) Peter provided an overview of the current position, challenges and timeline facing the borders initiative.</p> <p>Please note that the PowerPoint was official sensitive, and we will circulate peters slides if available later. If you did snapshot, please don't circulate.</p>	
8.	<p>AOB Please forward any ideas for objectives this year for group to SF</p>	

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8.1	Consider meeting in person on 12 th October 2023 with workshop in afternoon to be agreed	