

DIRECTORS OF PUBLIC PROTECTION WALES

Notes from the Port Health Expert Panel/Wales PLaN Meeting

Teleconference
on 16th Sept 2022

Present

Simon Fuller (SF)(Chair)	Ynys Mon Council
Carwyn Thomas (CT)(Sec)	Pembrokeshire County Council
Sion Lingard (SL)	PHW
Suzanne Born (SB)	Newport Council
Huw Brunt (HB)	Welsh Gov
Owain Williams (OW)	SRS
Rhys Harries (RH)	Swansea Council
Lindsay Horth (LH)	Newport Council
Richard Firth (RF)	PHW

Item	Matter	Action
1	<p>Welcome & introductions (including apologies) The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked all for joining. Apologies were received from Paul Lindsay (Flintshire) and Jane Peatey (SRS).</p>	
2	<p>COVID incidents (standing item) CT – still receiving quite a few vessels where cases are being declared, especially cruise ships, although most, if not all, are managing cases in-house and require very little assistance/advice. So not having to notify PHW/CCDC etc. SF – similar – very few cruise ships without cases.</p>	
3	<p>PHW update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) SL – introducing Richard Firth, who will be taking over the lead for Port Health. Sion will still support SW Wales for routine public health work. ii) COVID protocol – Plan to manage acute respiratory illness over winter (will include covid). WG plan awaited also. <p>Port Health specific covid plan – not likely; will be dealt with more generally. No clear picture of how covid will be dealt with going forward.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> iii) Review of HP legislation: Port Health regs: draft in 2014, but didn't progress further. Richard been invited to separate HP network – hopefully will be progressed from there. Legislation does need review, e.g. PMO role. <p>HB: if there are concerns about legislation, i.e. needs a review,</p>	

	<p>then opportunity to introduce it into the HP review. Best way is through DPPW. Similar conversations happening with Comm Disease, Env Protection. DPPW will consider what the top issues are which need to be raised.</p> <p>David Hayman/Sarah Hayes leading on the review. Likely to see it start in next few weeks.</p> <p>Action for SF: Speak to Louise Davies to discuss mechanism for coordinating responses.</p> <p>RF: monkeypox – strategy is elimination. 10 new cases per day but 1 is an importation (10%). Transmission before onset in 50% of cases.</p>	SF
4	<p>African Swine Fever</p> <p>See attached notes.</p> <p>SF – Protocol agreed with Border Force – response to finding illegal pork/pork products. Need to liaise with SRS to update.</p> <p>LH – link to animal health panel?</p> <p>SF – yes, with Gareth Walters. Joint AH/PH report.</p> <p>HB: Food issue? Is there an agreed procedure?</p> <p>SF: if Border Force think we need to be involved they'll call us.</p> <p>CT: wider “food” issues unlikely as Border Force won't be carrying out any increased surveillance; it will just be if they happen to find illegal pork. (If they're not looking... chances are they won't find...)</p> <p>SF: review period – 8 weeks.</p> <p>DEFRA – no enforcement expected in Wales, but plan being put together to ensure no “back door” into GB through Ireland.</p> <p>RF: virus risks not just food – vehicles, clothing etc.</p> <p>SF: may increase, but likely to depend on what's found.</p> <p>SF to discuss with CVO for further detail (review etc.)</p>	SF
5	<p>WG Update</p> <p>HB: i) HP review – covered.</p> <p>ii) Restructure on HP side – 4 divisions within the HP directorate: Comm Disease response & planning; Comm Disease priorities; Strategy & Oversight; Science, Evidence & Advice.</p> <p>Business shouldn't change – HB will still be WG link to PHEP.</p> <p>If a Port Health review is needed then we need to link on policy side.</p>	
6	<p>Border Checks - Brexit</p> <p>SF – currently, no border checks from EU. April '22 – further delay announced. Now in a process where Govt is reviewing plans – TOM (Target Operating Model) being published soon – draft 17/11/22 – recent consultation.</p> <p>Where does it leave us? Jan-Mar '23 – production of the BOM (Border Operating Model) with implementation Jan '24.</p>	

	<p>Training – being offered and is available. Starting soon. Holyhead – draft plans to build BCP – looks to be going ahead. CT: SW Wales – unclear. No recent updates re. BCP(s). LH: can you share training details? SF: yes, will do.</p>	SF/CT
7	<p>Routine Vessel inspections CT: question to all as to whether you've resumed doing routine (boarding) vessel inspections following COVID? Currently looking at this in Pembs. OW: also been considering this in SRS so that they can update Port Health Service Plan. SB: Newport - SSCs – yes. Routine insps not done since before covid. SF: cruise ships – yes. Have been finding some issues (1 in 5). RH: Similar in Swansea and looking to start routine insps in about a month.</p> <p>CT: agreed to contact APHA to get a wider UK view.</p>	CT
8	<p>APHA update JP circulated prior to meeting.</p>	
9	<p>AOB Feed (LH): unclear on impact of new checks from Jan '24. Will keep an eye on it.</p> <p>ICW (OW): what's the current position re. EU goods? SB: ABP lawyers looking at it. OW: will follow up. CT: all waste in Milford treated as ICW – makes it much easier to manage. SF: include as standing item going forward. Agreed.</p>	
10	<p>Next meeting End Jan 2023 – Teams (TBC) CT to look at suitable dates.</p>	CT