

public guardian across species areas ensures the continual monitoring for endemic disease and oversight of new and emerging threats. Every day veterinary surgeons across different areas of practice and research routinely participate in different surveillance related activities to contribute to the

Enhancing the UK surveillance systems

Whilst BVA recognises the recent financial constraints and remodelling that the UK Government surveillance networks have been faced with, fundamentally BVA would oppose any further reduction in the current level of Government resource spent on the scanning surveillance network in England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Instead, there are real opportunities for the veterinary profession to work with the UK Governments and other key stakeholders to modernise and optimise the existing surveillance network.

This can be achieved through:

- Maintaining the current level of Government resource spent on the scanning surveillance network
- Adopting new approaches to data collection and feedback.

- Optimising appropriate skills and expertise.

- Rethinking traditional approaches to funding and coordination.

- Articulating the value of surveillance reporting to the veterinary profession and other stakeholders through education to increase awareness and participation.

- Working collaboratively with stakeholders to explore innovative communication strategies.

Our specific recommendations are:

Maintaining the current level of Government resource for scanning surveillance

Network

Recommendation 1: As the UK looks to leave the EU, the UK Governments should maintain existing animal health legislation, maintain the current level of resources for veterinary surveillance and provide adequately resourced systems for detecting new and emerging disease to ensure there is no reduction of existing animal health standards and protections and to enable trade in animals and animal products.

Recommendation 2: In Northern Ireland, DAERA and the Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine should ensure that the present high level of cooperation continues across the border to raise animal health and welfare standards with an all-island approach when the UK leaves the EU.

Recommendation 3: As the UK looks to leave the EU and considers new approaches to data, reciprocal data sharing within the whole of Europe and elsewhere internationally should be maintained.

Recommendation 4: UK Governments should look to better harness and coordinate the differing strands of veterinary surveillance activity through a UK-wide strategy that aims to

ensure coverage is sufficient and representative of all contributors and addresses production animal, equine, companion animal and wildlife health and disease monitoring.

Recommendation 5: The UK Governments should establish a body to oversee and coordinate surveillance policy across the four administrations of the UK.

Recommendation 6: Government resources for the existing Veterinary Investigation Centres in the UK should be maintained, with no further reduction of key structures and reporting routes in the scanning surveillance network across England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland without the provision of viable alternatives to maintain coverage.

Recommendation 7: There should be greater cooperation and collaboration between APHA, AFBI and SACCVS in the provision of diagnostic tests and tests required for trade to ensure a robust and reliable cost-effective service for veterinary surgeons and their clients to encourage contributions to the surveillance system while ensuring best value for the taxpayer.

Adopting new approaches to data collection and feedback

Recommendation 8: BVA calls on the UK Governments to increase the coverage of the scanning surveillance network through the use of syndromic surveillance and the repurposing of existing health data or data on clinical disease events eg. health records from private practice, private laboratories, abattoir reports, market monitoring, farm assurance schemes or fallen stock reports.

Recommendation 9: Submission and sharing of data should be incentivised by enabling veterinary professionals, veterinary practices, animal keepers and laboratories to derive professional, economic, logistic and public relations value from inputting data, on top of the value derived for animal health and welfare.

Recommendation 10: A respected, independent body should be identified as the trusted information.

Optimising relevant skills and expertise

Recommendation 11: There should be no further reductions in the number of Veterinary Investigation Officers in England and Wales. Rather, across the UK the role and status of Veterinary Investigation Officers should be reinforced and engagement with local veterinary practices and communities increased in order to incentivise the role of Veterinary Investigation Officer or regional equivalent as a career option.

Recommendation 12: There should be a diversified career pathway for Veterinary Investigation Officers, as well as regional and partner provider equivalent roles, with

Recommendation 20: Vet schools should review their curricula to ensure they reflect the clinical, business and professional value of surveillance and adopt approaches to incentivise