

# BVA response to EFRA Committee inquiry: Seafood and Meat Exports to the EU

## Who we are

- 1) The British Veterinary Association (BVA) is the national representative body for the veterinary profession in the United Kingdom. With over 18,000 members, our primary aim is to represent, support and champion the interests of the United Kingdom's veterinary profession. We therefore take a keen interest in all issues affecting the profession, including animal health, animal welfare, public health, regulatory issues and employment matters.
- 2) We welcome the opportunity to provide our evidence to this inquiry on seafood and meat exports to the EU.
- 3) Movements of both animals and animal products may carry pathogens that can represent a threat to public health and the health of animal populations. Sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures are those measures to protect humans, animals, and plants from diseases, p6004B0044498866

that animals are sentient beings.” At present, this is no longer the case in the UK and should be rectified with legislation as a matter of urgency, as BVA has urged government for some time.

### **Which seafood and meat exports have been particularly affected by border delays and disruptions since 1 January, and why?**

- 10)** From 1 January 2021, there has been an increased demand for veterinary certification and supervision of goods moving from Great Britain to both the EU Single Market and Northern Ireland. This includes POAO, germplasm and live animals, including pet animals and equines.
- 11)** Exporters require an EHC signed by an OV to transport live animals, POAO or germplasm from Great Britain to the EU Single Market and Northern Ireland (unless exempt during the current grace period). The OV stamp and signature attests that relevant public health, animal health and animal welfare requirements have been met. The EHC for fishery products<sup>1</sup> can be signed by a designated Food Competent Certifying Officer (FCCO) or an OV. The certificate must then travel alongside the consignment where they will enter the Single Market via a designated border control post (BCP) for documentary, identity, and physical checks by veterinary surgeons.
- 12)** Additional veterinary capacity will be needed to fulfil this demand. It is still too early to tell if the



<b>2015</b>	909	981	203	2093
<b>2016</b>	911	973	178	2062
<b>2017</b>	867	963	200	2030
<b>2018</b>	885	1197	218	2300
<b>2019</b>	987	1137	225	2349
<b>2020</b>	1075	741	132	1948

21)

been doing so

Sanitary and Phytosanitary infrastructure and staff to comply with imports from Great Britain.