

BVA response to EU Goods Sub-Committee Future UK-



Committee

rectified with legislation as a matter of urgency as BVA has urged government to do for some time.

Veterinary involvement in trade

- 10) From 1 January 2021, there has been an increased demand for veterinary certification and supervision for goods including live animals, POAO and germplasm as well as pet animals and equines moving between Great Britain and the EU Single Market and between Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Exports

- 11) Exporters require an EHC signed by an OV to transport live animals, POAO or germplasm from Great Britain to the EU Single Market as well as Northern Ireland (unless exempt during the current grace period). The OV stamp and signature attests that relevant public and animal health requirements have been met. The consignments will then need to travel alongside this certificate 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 UK has sufficient veterinary capacity at present to do this. Many operators are still waiting and delaying some of their exports. Thus far, veterinary capacity has not yet been a barrier and we welcome the work that has been done by government to increase that capacity.
- 13) Our understanding from discussions with the UK government, EU contacts and industry is that during the month of January exports have been well below the level that would typically be expected. Engagement with French authorities has provided that in the first few days of January, traffic in the GB-France direction was only 30% of its usual amount, and it is at approximately 60% as of 14 January 2021. However a large percentage of the lorries were arriving in France empty. The proportion of batches that require SPS checks is around 5%, compared to 10% in usual times.
- 14) Further demands for additional veterinary capacity in Great Britain to sign EHCs are expected. The current grace period that is in place for movements from Great Britain to Northern Ireland that removes the requirements for the majority of EHCs will come to an end on 1 April 2021. It is also known that new EU EHCs will need to be operational by 21 April 2021. These new EHCs will also increase the demand for EHCs as they will remove an exemption currently in place for certain shelf stable composite goods.

Imports

- 15) There will also be the need for OVs to perform import checks once sanitary controls are applied on imports into Great Britain from the EU. These requirements will be phased in. From April 2021 all POAO will also require pre-notification and the relevant health documentation. From July 2021 there will be an increase in physical checks.

Sanitary and Phytosanitary Controls (SPS) checks and controls at ports and airports.”² A sizeable number of this cadre will be OVs, but there will be phytosanitary staff and support staff included in this number. In the Netherlands, there were plans, reported in 2018, for an additional

Immigration

24) The UK is highly reliant on EU vets. According to the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS), on 19 January 2020, there were 27,324 UK practising vets.

government with individual BCPs, the EU Commission to ensure consistency. As appropriate the guidance to OVs is updated to ensure the advice to exporters is correct. This process has worked well to date. However, there remain significant problems with the completion of EHCs, both in interpreting the requirements and with inconsistencies in interpretation and implementation at BCPs.