

BVA response to EFRA Committee Call for



until January 2022, at which point they will take place at BCPs. From March 2022, checks at BCPs will take place on live animals.

- 18) While these changes may provide some welcome breathing space for industry, they are being introduced at a late stage when vets have been working hard to make preparations for a new raft of requirements being introduced in only three weeks' time. At a time when there are ongoing concerns about veterinary capacity, greater notice is needed to adjust to new demands and shifting timetables. It's essential that we now use this additional time to put clear plans in place.
- 19) At this stage more certainty is needed. Putting in place this infrastructure and staff will require a significant amount of time and resource. BCPs will need to be approved for the specific type of commodity that will move through them. For example, for a BCP to be designated for live animal imports it will require specific infrastructure.
- 20) On Friday 2 October 2020 the government launched a £200 million fund for ports to bid on to build new facilities. Reporting from the Financial Times has noted concerns from port operators that this funding may be inadequate in practice.³
- 21) GB can learn from the experience of neighbouring states have prepared border Sanitary and Phytosanitary infrastructure and staff to comply with imports from GB. Ireland has been required to have BCPs in place since January 2021. The Irish Government agreed sites and plans in 2018 and were preparing to hire "in the region of 200 extra full-time staff to carry out Sanitary and Phytosanitary Controls (SPS) checks and controls at ports and airports." 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 145 veterinarians for the Port of Rotterdam ahead of a previous potential no deal.
- 22) Recently, the government announced £14 million in funding has been given to local authorities across England to help them maintain the UK's high standards on imported animal products. "Over 500 new port health roles are being created to facilitate the new checks on imports of animal products from the EU from April 2021." Not all of these reported 500 personnel will need to be qualified official veterinarians (OVs), but it is likely that a significant number will be OVs.
- 23) In GB there are very limited numbers of OVs that have the required training to function as OVs at BCPs. It is likely that Port Authorities will be seeking to source private OVs from existing

intelligence on animal health and welfare that enabled policy makers, veterinary professionals and animal keepers to take decisions to improve animal health and welfare, productivity, and identify and manage threats to public health, trade, food quality, the environment and leisure and tourism.

The withdrawal of the UK from the EU will have far-reaching implications on the UK's biosecurity. EU legislation, structures and institutions were embedded within the UK biosecurity framework; underpinning surveillance, disease preparedness, outbreak response procedures and control and eradication programmes.

28) Diseases do not respect political borders. Therefore, shared surveillance will continue to be a priority. Ongoing cooperation and collaboration with the EU will continue to be important. This will be particularly critical with Ireland as the UK and Ireland share a land border with the EU. North-South cooperation has “enabled the island of Ireland to be treated in policy and operational terms as a single epidemiological unit for the purposes of animal health and welfare.”⁴

29) In our response to the House of Lords EU Energy and Environment Sub-Committee inquiry on Brexit: plant and animal biosecurity we stated:

“To protect animal health, animal welfare, public health and to ensure trade, reciprocal surveillance data sharing with Europe and internationally must be maintained, and the UK must maintain effective and adequately resourced systems for detecting new and emerging diseases.”

30) There was hope that the Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA) would in some way seek to maintain cooperation on this issue beyond the OIE baseline. However, the TCA Sanitary and Phytosanitary SPS chapter provides very little in this regard. Within the structures created by the TCA, there will be a “Trade Specialised Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures” where the UK and EU can meet and discuss the operation of SPS arrangements. It is imperative that the UK government engages with industry and the veterinary profession on priorities that should be brought to the specialised committee.

3. What impact will the new UK-EU agreement have on moving animals across the Irish border and between GB and the EU/NortherTf1IIT@q0.00000rcET@us)-4(r)4y

slaughtered as close to the point of production as possible. ¹⁵¹⁶¹⁷

- 59) Although there have been relatively few AHCs issued for pets to date, there are some issues arising including a lack of space to record all the required details of the rabies vaccination as well as timing issues regarding issuing relating to the rabies vaccination and owner declaration.
- 60) The UK has been “Part 2” listed by the EU Commission. The UK should endeavor to provide further assurance to the Commission of our low rabies disease risk in order to gain “Part 1” listing. This would remove the requirement for a new AHC for each instance of travel.
- 61) Travelling with pets is currently very limited due to Covid restrictions, so there is still no clear picture of how onerous or costly the new system will be for vets and owners. But we do know that this will be a lot more paperwork than the old pet passports, which will need to be filled out before each visit, and it will take time for vets to become familiar with the new requirements.

the current wait period for dogs coming into the UK from unlisted third countries of 12 weeks.

Strengthening enforcement provisions

Enforcement of non-commercial pet movement regulations

71) [Figures released from Defra earlier this year](#) demonstrate that the number of dogs imported to

Prospective owners should be encouraged to rehome from the existing UK dog population and UK rehoming charities or welfare organisations.

Equines

9. What impact will the EU Animal Health Law have on the movement of equines between GB and the EU/NI from April 2021

10. Will the rules and checks on the movement of equines be strong enough to

