



Commission (TAC) on a statutory footing.<sup>1</sup> The Trade and Agricultural Commission (TAC) was

is the norm for many of our trading partners, and as such the UK should bolster its trade personnel with veterinary surgeons who are able to provide an unparalleled level of assurance to trading partners.

- 17) To support cooperation on SPS barriers under a new FTA, the UK Government should develop a process whereby vets, farmers and processors are engaged to identify unnecessary SPS barriers. Canada and Mexico on SPS barriers.
- 18) Within any FTA the UK should not permit imports that fail to meet the current high human and public health standards onto the UK market. Within the UK these goods would become indistinguishable from UK produce, jeopardising the ability of exporters to trade using the good reputation of the UK as a high animal health and welfare producer. This would increase the risk posed by goods leaving Great Britain failing to meet EU SPS standards. Consequently, the need for risk-based checks on Great Britain goods entering the EU Single Market, including Northern Ireland, would rise. This would place additional delays on producers.
- 19) The UK Government should seek to apply a single standard to the production of animal products destined either for UK consumers or foreign markets. A single standard that includes veterinary controls and certifications will avoid the confusion and the opportunity for fraud that is associated with multiple parallel standards, avoid compromised animal health and welfare, and ensure consumer confidence at home and abroad.

### **Tariff reduction and standards**

- 20) Veterinary surgeons, as qualified professionals who play an essential role in the operation of international trade, want to see a high standard of animal health, welfare and food hygiene prioritised within any trade negotiations and deals including with Canada and Mexico.
- 21) The TAC published its report in March 2020. Key amongst their recommendations was recommendation 8 which stated that:<sup>3</sup>

*ries that can meet the high standards of food production expected from UK producers. It should work with trading partners within future FTA negotiations to lower tariffs and quotas to zero where equivalence is*

- 22) The report submits that the UK should adopt a three-pillar approach to liberalizing international





- 34) Many of the expected veterinary demands have yet to materialise. As a result, we still do not know if the UK has sufficient vet capacity to meet further demands. As the provisions of the Scheme for Temporary Agri-food Movements to Northern Ireland (STAMNI) begin to be phased out from October 2021, EHCs will also be required for goods moving from Great Britain to Northern Ireland. The latest Defra estimate is that demand for EHCs may increase 70,000-150,000 per year as a result. This is estimated to require Up to 70 full time equivalent OVs.
- 35) Previous Defra estimates, based on a survey conducted prior to the end of the transition period, found that the average time an OV spent on certification was approximately 15%. Defra expected this percentage to increase with the greatly increased demand and increasing specialisation and used a range of 10% to 30% within their preparatory work. Using this same range, 70 FTE OVs could require between 233 or 700 actual vets.



