



Changes To The Way APHA Commissions TB Testing & Other Government Funded Veterinary Services

Official Veterinarians working in England and Wales

You should already be aware from previous communications and via the veterinary and farming press that as of 1 April 2015 the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) ceased to allocate work directly to Official Veterinarian (OV) practices in Wales. The same change will apply in England from 1 May 2015.

From 1 April in Wales and 1 May in England all **new** TB testing and other OV work is being undertaken by regional suppliers (known as Delivery Partners), who will be responsible for allocating local vets and ensuring testing is carried out to a high standard. The new contracts require Delivery Partners to offer testing work to eligible veterinary businesses operating within their geographical regions and OVs and OV practices wishing to continue to undertake government paid work must contact the Delivery Partner/s operating in their region (contact details below).

This flyer is to draw your attention to some key aspects of the change, in order to avoid misunderstanding and confusion.

TB Testing

- **All work allocated by APHA to OV Practices prior to 1 April in Wales and 1 May in England will remain with those practices and they will be responsible to APHA for its completion.** Payment for this work will be made under APHA's previous rates and procedures. **Therefore some OV practices will still be completing government paid TB testing beyond 1 April in Wales and 1 May in England, until all work allocated to them is complete.** This could be as late as August or September depending on the testing window.
- All work allocated from 1 April in Wales and 1 May in England will go direct to the Delivery Partners.
- TB testing undertaken through Delivery Partners' networks will continue to be Government-funded and must be delivered free of charge to farmers and livestock keepers. If farmers do not meet their obligations to present cattle in a safe and efficient manner or want testing to be undertaken in a way that suits their business but adds costs to OVs, then farmers, OVs and Delivery Partners may wish to discuss supplementary charges for any additional service(s) required, but **OVs should not accept or ask for any other additional payments from farmers for undertaking Government-funded TB testing.**
- If you are an OV or OV practice who has chosen not to continue with government paid work, providing you hold the necessary qualifications, you are still entitled to carry out private TB testing, e.g. pre-movement tests etc. You may be approached by a farmer about continuing to carry out routine TB herd testing as farmers are entitled to pay privately for this testing, but the farmer must contact their APHA office to ensure that the work is allocated to you or your practice and not the Delivery Partner.

Sam

- **All OV Practices will continue to use Sam.**
- Delivery Partners will use Sam to allocate work to the practices contracted to them. The process for the completion and submission of TB test results on Sam by OVs will remain unchanged. All OVs

and OV Practices, whether contracted to a Delivery Partner or not, must also continue to submit private (e.g. Pre-Movement) testing through Sam.

Anthrax, Brucellosis and other veterinary services

- All existing procedures for notifying APHA of suspicion of disease, abortions etc. remain in force and continue after 1 April in Wales and 1 May in England.
- In addition to the TB testing of cattle, all other services delivered for APHA such as Anthrax or abortion enquiries following reports received from keepers will be carried out by OV Practices working for Delivery Partners.
- If you report suspicion of Anthrax to APHA but you are not sub-contracted to work for a Delivery Partner, it will be necessary for APHA to contact the Delivery Partner and ask them to allocate an OV from their network of practices to attend the holding to deal with the inquiry. Likewise abortion enquiries will be issued directly to the Delivery Partner.
- APHA will authorise and commission this work via Delivery Partners using a new Sam Work Schedule Activity (WSA) on which information in relation to time spent on the task and its completion must be submitted. The Sam WSA will not capture any disease reporting data or results. All existing paper forms (e.g. AN02) remain valid and must still be submitted to APHA.

Training and qualifications

- To carry out government OV work, whether via a Delivery Partner or privately, it is necessary to be registered with Improve International www.improveinternational.com/uk and hold the necessary Official Controls Qualifications (Veterinarian) or OCQ (V). Existing OVs had the opportunity to register by 31st March 2015 to retain 'grandfather rights', meaning it would not be necessary to undertake initial training.

For further information about the introduction of Delivery Partners, background to the changes and a Question and Answer on how they might affect your practice please visit the Official Veterinarians pages of our website: <http://ahvla.defra.gov.uk/official-vets/changes-to-procurments/index.htm>

Region	Delivery Partner	Contact details
Wales North	Menter a Busnes	Email: gia@menterabusnes.co.uk Telephone: 01248 668 639 Welsh site: http://www.menterabusnes.co.uk/cy/ English site: http://www.menterabusnes.co.uk/animalhealthservices
Wales South	Iechyd Da (Gwledig) Ltd	Email: info@i-da.co.uk Telephone: 01970 636688 Website: http://i-da.co.uk/index.php/en/
England South East	XL Farmcare South East Ltd	Email: bill.pepper@xlfarmcare.co.uk Telephone: 0800 6125289 Website: http://www.xlfarmcare.co.uk/
England South West 1	XL Farmcare Devon and Cornwall Ltd	Email: phillip.leighton@xlfarmcare.co.uk Telephone: 0800 6125289 Website: http://www.xlfarmcare.co.uk/
England South West 2	XL Farmcare Wessex Ltd	Email: andrew.davies@xlfarmcare.co.uk Telephone: 0800 6125289 Website: http://www.xlfarmcare.co.uk/
England Midlands	XL Farmcare Midlands Ltd	Email: rob.henderson@xlfarmcare.co.uk Telephone: 0800 6125289 Website: http://www.xlfarmcare.co.uk/
England North	XL Farmcare North Ltd	Email: bridget.taylor@xlfarmcare.co.uk Telephone: 0800 6125289 Website: http://www.xlfarmcare.co.uk/