



APHA Briefing Note 01/17

Extension of free carcase collection areas in England for diagnostic post mortem examinations

Purpose

1. To inform Official Veterinarians (OVs) that as of 3 January 2017, more farmers benefit from free carcase collection services in England where a veterinarian has recommended a post mortem should be carried out for disease surveillance purposes. There are no changes to the existing arrangements in Wales.

Background

2. APHA has reviewed the contracts for the provision of post mortem examination (PME) services from non-APHA surveillance partners. This has resulted in more areas of England being eligible for free carcase collection from 3 January 2017.
3. PME services are provided by a mixture of APHA's own Veterinary Investigation Centres (VICs) and a number of external partners – the University of Bristol, the Royal Veterinary College, the University of Surrey, Scottish Agricultural College (covering Northumberland) and in Wales, the Wales Veterinary Science Centre (Aberystwyth University).
4. PMEs have also been provided through the APHA contracts by the use of fallen stock sites in some areas of England, but with the extension of the free carcase collection service, the use of these fallen stock sites in England will cease.
5. Within the catchment area of these PME facilities, usually around an hour's drive time from the centre, farmers are asked to transport carcasses for post mortem by their own means. However, outside of these catchment areas exists a network of carcase collection contractors who can collect and

transport livestock carcasses to a VIC or an external PME site for investigation, subject to veterinary triage.

6. Whilst there is a charge for the post mortem service, carcass collection is provided free of charge to farmers, although only where a post mortem is agreed to be of surveillance value– the services are not provided for the purposes of general carcass disposal.

Further Information

Further information is available on the [Vet Gateway](#) where you can look up the available surveillance services in your area (post mortem examination centres or carcass collection services). See the [postcode search tool](#) and view the [map](#) showing the scanning surveillance network across England and Wales.

APHA also publishes surveillance reports on the monitoring of diseases in livestock and poultry available here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/animal-disease-surveillance-reports>.

Issued: 10 January 2017