



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

APHA Briefing Note 03/2022

TB Disease Report Form visits during the current Avian Influenza outbreaks - Wales

Date issued: 21 January 2022

Purpose

1. To inform Official Veterinarians (OVs) working in Wales that from 21st January 2022, APHA will be operating under temporary new arrangements for arranging Disease Report Form assessments for new TB breakdowns in Wales, due to the effect that control of the current Avian Influenza (AI) outbreak is having on availability of APHA veterinary resource.

Background

2. APHA arranges a TB Disease Report Form visit at the start of new TB breakdown. This is a veterinary task carried out when possible by the TB case veterinary inspector within 10 working days from issue of TB181 or TB2 movement restrictions.

Since the beginning of the Covid pandemic, this task has mainly been undertaken over the telephone by an APHA vet. The main aim of the visit, or discussion, is to gather epidemiological information about the incident. This time with an APHA vet provides an opportunity for the keeper to ask any questions they may have relating to TB on their farm and to discuss the management of their breakdown.

3. OV instructions relating to TB testing require OVs at the end of TT2 to action the following if at least one reactor or first time IR animal is disclosed at a test:
 - *hand or provide electronically the keeper/owner with a copy of the Information Note (TB181/TB181(Welsh)). The note must be issued to the keeper/owner on each occasion that either reactors or IRs are disclosed - OVs can keep copies of the Information Note (TB181) for their records but copies are not to be sent to APHA offices;*
 - *explain to the keeper/owner the contents of the Information Note and answer any questions they may have."*

What's Changing?

4. APHA will from 21st January 2022 aim to arrange a telephone Disease Report Form assessment within 30 working days of issue of TB181 or TB2 movement restrictions for new TB breakdowns in Wales. This is intended to be a temporary arrangement whilst control of the current AI outbreak continues.
5. Keepers with new TB breakdowns in Wales will usually be contacted by APHA administrative staff to arrange the valuation and removal of reactor animals within 10 working days of issue of TB181 or TB2. Any questions they may have at that stage will be answered or passed on to other members of staff able to supply the answer.

Action Required

6. OVs are reminded about the importance of the instruction to explain to the keeper/owner the contents of the Information Note (TB181) and answer any questions they may have, particularly at a time when contact with an APHA vet may take longer to arrange.

Further Information

7. OV testing instructions at:

http://apha.defra.gov.uk/External_OV_Instructions/TB_Instructions/Updates/index.htm.

8. Please refer any queries to apha.cymruWales@apha.gov.uk