



## APHA OV Briefing Note 06/15

### Delivery of Veterinary Services in England

#### **Additional charges for undertaking Government-funded TB testing**

Under the new veterinary delivery arrangements in England and Wales APHA will pay regional Delivery Partners to deliver Government-funded veterinary services in their regions. Regional Delivery Partners will then pay subcontracted OVs or OV practices for the on-farm testing they undertake. **Regardless of these contractual arrangements, 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.**

To ensure that testing takes place as efficiently and safely as possible, Delivery Partners will provide information to farmers and livestock keepers on the standards of handling facilities expected. If animals are not presented in a safe and efficient manner, OVs may decline to test them and overdue testing could lead to reductions in subsidy payments made by the Rural Payments Agency. The British Veterinary Association has published [a leaflet](#) giving advice and information about safe working conditions on farms.

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.**

Previous OV briefing notes can be found at: <http://ahvla.defra.gov.uk/official-vets/briefing%20notes.htm>

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