



Animal &  
Plant Health  
Agency

## APHA Briefing Note 16/24

### Changes to the Vet Gateway website

Date issued: 02 May 2024

#### Purpose

1. To inform all Official Veterinarians (OVs), Food Competent Certifying Officers (FCCOs) and Animal Health Paraprofessionals (AHPs) that the APHA Vet Gateway website is changing, with the majority of the existing content being moved to GOV.UK.

#### Background

2. The APHA Vet Gateway provides a publicly available portal for vets (including OVs, AHPs and FCCOs) to access APHA's services, systems, operating instructions, guidance, news and intelligence on new and re-emerging animal health threats.
3. Vet Gateway is therefore a critical application to ensure vital work can be carried out on behalf of APHA.
4. The content of the Vet Gateway has grown over time and changes are required to ensure that the website meets user needs. User research indicates that the current site is not sufficiently user friendly. The lack of a search facility makes finding content difficult and the navigation around the site is challenging.
5. The Vet Gateway is a legacy application and the software used to manage the content is no longer supported. APHA is very limited in what can be done or changed on the website. If APHA continue to use this legacy application, there are risks that it will stop working.
6. **Therefore, an alternative mechanism for delivering the information on the Vet Gateway is required.**

APHA is an Executive Agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and also works on behalf of the Scottish Government, Welsh Government and Food Standards Agency to safeguard animal and plant health for the benefit of people, the environment and the economy.

## What's changing?

7. As part of the solution, the majority of the existing content will be moving to GOV.UK and numerous improvements made to its functionality. This will:
  - improve stability to ensure continuation of all current functionality.
  - improve navigation and include a search option, so content is easier to find.
  - provide a modern look and feel that is intuitive to use and understand.
  - ensure full compliance with all required standards such as accessibility.
  - enable efficient content management and communication to ensure up-to-date and relevant information is provided.
  - enable alerts for when existing content is updated or new content is added.
8. The content is being moved in seven phases, the first of which is scheduled to be published on GOV.UK in May and we hope to have completed this work by October 2024.
9. Work is underway to determine a suitable hosting site for the remaining content that is not suitable for GOV.UK.
10. We are not anticipating any gaps in service as content is moved however it will mean that for a period of time there will be a requirement for you to access information on either the Vet Gateway or GOV.UK.
11. More information about the content changes will be provided [here](#). This page will provide details of what content has moved and where it has moved.

## Further Information

12. If you have any queries about the changes, please contact [webmaster@apha.gov.uk](mailto:webmaster@apha.gov.uk)