



## APHA Briefing Note 17/17

### Changes to TB compensation in Wales

#### Purpose

1. To inform Official Veterinarians (OVs) of changes that will be made from 1 October 2017 to TB compensation payments in Wales.

#### Background

1. These changes follow the Welsh Government's consultation 'A Refreshed TB Eradication Programme', which took place from 1 October 2016 to 10 January 2017. The consultation sought views on a number of changes to the eradication programme and a summary of the responses is available on the Welsh Government's website: [www.consultations.gov.wales/consultations/refreshed-tb-eradication-programme](http://www.consultations.gov.wales/consultations/refreshed-tb-eradication-programme).
2. The arrangements for paying compensation for cattle slaughtered, because of TB, are set out in the Tuberculosis (Wales) Order 2010 (as amended). Compensation is based on the market value of the animal.
3. One of the changes to be introduced is the reduction in the maximum compensation payable for any individual animal:
  - For all reactors or Direct Contacts identified as a result of a TT2 date (skin test) or sample date (gamma IFN) before 1 October 2017 the compensation paid cannot be more than £15,000 or less than £1.
  - For all reactors or Direct Contacts identified as a result of a TT2 date (skin test) or sample date (gamma IFN) on or after 1 October 2017 the compensation paid cannot be more than £5,000 or less than £1.

4. The second change involves cattle movements within a TB restricted holding when the breakdown is classed as persistent. If a herd remains restricted beyond 18 months the breakdown will become classed as “persistent”. At this point additional TB control measures are implemented to help eliminate infection and reduce the risk of wider disease spread. An Individual Herd Action plan is developed in consultation with the farmer, their own vet (at the farmer’s expense), the APHA case vet and the Welsh Government.
5. From 1 October 2017 a policy will be introduced with an aim to reduce the likelihood of new infection within distinct sub-populations within a holding, in particular the adult dairy population on the main premises and in replacement dairy breeding heifers, through the increased control of certain animal movements.
6. A review will be undertaken by the APHA case vet, as part of the Individual Herd Action Plan, to decide how the holding will be split by the service of separate TB02 notices on different units of land making up the holding. Movements of cattle between these premises will then only be permitted under licence issued by APHA.
7. From 1 April 2018 these moves may also be subject to a reduction in compensation if a moved animal later fails the TB test (Skin or Gamma), before the herd becomes TB free.
8. Not all movements between units of the holding under separate TB02 restrictions will be subject to compensation reduction. This will depend upon the risk factors identified at the time of the proposed move and will be subject to ongoing review throughout the breakdown as disease risk factors change.
9. In most cases this will allow the farmer to move cattle within the holding as required (under licence), but means they also share the financial risk when these moves result in an increased disease risk to the animals being moved or to those on the premises of destination.

**To Note:** All groups of cattle on the holding will remain under TB02 restrictions throughout the breakdown. Restrictions will only be lifted by service of a TB10 notice for the entire holding once all groups of cattle have completed the required testing.

### **Actions for OVVs**

10. In order to understand the relative levels of TB in different groups of animals on a farm it is necessary that APHA have information as to the location of cattle at

all TB tests, regardless of whether they are undergoing a breakdown or whether the breakdown is persistent.

11. When recording TB test results for any holding with more than one premises, OVs must record all of the animals at a single location as a separate group on the test chart(s). A single location is defined as the place at which a group of animals are **tested** ie. the premises at which the crush or other handling equipment is located for the TB testing of each animal. This is the relevant location for which APHA will assess the case, apply separate TB02 restrictions and monitor compliance. It will also be used to determine where compensation reduction is applicable following disclosure of reactors.

### **Further information**

- Further information is available on the Welsh Government website:  
<http://gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/ahw/disease/bovinetuberculosis/bovinetberadication/?lang=en>.

**Issued:** 15 September 2017