



Animal &  
Plant Health  
Agency

## APHA Briefing Note 31/22

# Movement Assistance Scheme: Costs related to *Brucella Ovis* testing requirement

Date issued: 07 September 2022

### Purpose

To inform Official Veterinarians (OVs) and other certifiers that the [Movement Assistance Scheme \(MAS\)](#) has been expanded to bring the costs of *Brucella ovis* testing into the scheme.

### Background

*Brucella ovis* testing is a requirement for entire (non-castrated) rams (male sheep) that travel from Great Britain (GB) to Northern Ireland (NI).

The testing relates to two different types of movement:

- Rams travelling from NI to GB and then back to NI (EHC 8462); and
- Rams travelling direct from GB to NI.

The Agricultural Shows are approved Assembly Centres. This ensures the health status of animals is not compromised after leaving their holding of origin.

From 1 September 2022, MAS will cover the costs as follows:

- Costs relating to *Brucella ovis* testing in NI prior to movement to GB before returning to NI – flock owners will incur these costs and in turn be reimbursed by the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) up to a cap of £150 (vet administration of testing) plus VAT and £34 plus VAT (cost of test).
- Costs relating to *Brucella ovis* testing in GB prior to movement to NI - the vet will not charge the flock owner but be reimbursed by APHA up to a cap of £150 (vet administration of testing) plus VAT and £34 plus VAT (cost of test).

To note: To be reimbursed for costs incurred when returning to NI from GB (EHC 8462), you will need to provide the EHC number of the return movement.

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.

## Action

OVs and other certifiers carrying out *Brucella ovis* tests should invoice the APHA finance team by emailing [ServiceDeliveryVetandExportInvoices@apha.gov.uk](mailto:ServiceDeliveryVetandExportInvoices@apha.gov.uk).

Claims can be made for testing from 1 September 2022 for movements of live uncastrated rams from GB to NI. A sample invoice showing information to include can be found [here](#), and an application form for reimbursement [here](#).

## Further Information

More details of this scheme expansion are included in a [MAS Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#).