



(Insert Recipients Name and Address)

CPH

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Dear Recipient,

Outcome of Your Herd's TB Exempt Review

### **Your herd is not exempt from routine herd testing**

This letter is to inform you that your herd remains eligible for routine herd testing and you will receive a testing notification letter when this test is due. Most herds are tested once every four years so your test may not be due this year.

Scotland has been Officially Tuberculosis Free (OTF) since 2009, which allows us to take a more flexible risk-based approach to TB testing frequency. This flexibility allows those Scottish herds which are considered to be at 'lowest risk' of contracting and subsequently spreading TB to be exempted from routine testing.

However, some herds which appear to be only at 'low risk' of contracting TB could still potentially spread disease if they were infected and so are not exempt from routine four yearly testing - e.g. if the majority of stock are sold on as stores rather than direct to slaughter.

Herds on annual testing are not considered for exemption.

The criteria used to determine the 'lowest risk' status are:

- the proportion of cattle sent direct to slaughter each year (post-mortem inspected)
- how frequently animals are brought into the herd from farms in high risk TB areas e.g. Northern Ireland, Republic of Ireland and annual testing areas of England or Wales,
- other factors e.g. where the breeding herd is a separate unit from the finishing unit and slaughterhouse surveillance would therefore be unlikely to disclose disease in the breeding herd, or a herd with numerous tracings, or where there is a history of confirmed TB.

Currently your herd is not classed as exempt because you are not in one of the following categories or the other factors (above) apply:

1. Herd of fewer than 50 cattle and which have no more than one consignment of cattle moved on from high risk TB areas (as above) in the last four years.
2. Herd where more than 25%\* of cattle are slaughtered\*\* per year in each of the previous four years and with no more than one consignment of cattle moved on from a high risk area TB (as above) in the previous four years.
3. Herd where more than 40%\* of cattle are slaughtered\*\* per year in each of the previous four years.

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.

**It is important to remember that your herd management is the key deciding factor as to whether your herd will be tested;** management changes can reduce the need for testing.

You will receive a letter each year to keep you informed of your status.

Any queries can be answered by your local APHA Field Services office at the above address. Further details can be found on the Scottish Government website:

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/farmingrural/Agriculture/animal-welfare/Diseases/disease/tuberculosis>

Yours sincerely

Name

Veterinary Head of Field Delivery Scotland

\*The percentage is calculated by the total number of cattle slaughtered in a slaughterhouse in the previous calendar year divided by the total number of cattle on the holding on 1 January of that year. Total cattle means all bovines registered on BCMS, not just the adult breeding herd.

\*\* 'Slaughtered' means cattle that have been on the holding for at least 60 days that move either direct from farm to slaughterhouse, or direct from farm to market and then direct to slaughterhouse. Cattle moving onto another holding temporarily between market and slaughterhouse are not included.

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