



**Meeting:** Bovine TB Stakeholder Forum – Meeting 13  
**Date:** 15 February 2022  
**Time:** 11:00 – 13:00  
**Location:** Virtual Meeting

## Attendees

### Chair:

Michael Cronin, Chair TB Stakeholder Forum

### Working Group Chairs:

Sean Brady, Implementation Working Group (IWG)

Gerry Kiely, Chair Finance Working Group (FWG)

John Griffin, Chair Scientific Working Group (SWG)

### Organisations:

Conor Mulvihill, Dairy Industry Ireland; Lorcan McCabe, Paul Smyth, ICMSA; Hugh Farrell, John Barron ICOSA; TJ Maher, Tomas Bourke, IFA; John Keane, Macra na Feirme; Simon More, UCD; Claire Crowley, NPWS; Kevin Twomey, Farmer; James Lynch, Animal Health Ireland, Pádraic Fogarty, Irish Wildlife Trust; Joe Burke, Bord Bia; Colin Kelly, Ornuu; Michael Miley, Communications.

### Department of Agriculture, Food, and the Marine (DAFM):

Martin Blake, Patricia Reilly, Michael Sheahan, Eoin Ryan, Conor O'Mahony.

### Bovine TB Forum Secretariat:

Rosanne Greene, Karina Wrigley, Donal Mooney, Anthony Stringer.

### Apologies:

Ray Doyle, ICOS; Joe Ryan, Meat Industry Ireland.

## Minutes

Item	Minutes
Introduction by Chair Michael Cronin	The Chair welcomed all representatives to the meeting and gave a brief overview of the TB Forum and its work to date. Patricia Reilly, Deputy Chief Veterinary Officer also addressed the meeting.
Minutes of Previous Meeting	The minutes of meeting 12 (18 October 2021) were agreed.
Update on TB Situation and TB Strategy Actions	DAFM provided the TB forum with an update on the current TB situation and presented a new cluster map of areas with a higher number of TB breakdowns. A more detailed analysis, by age, is to be provided on the type of animals moving out of C0 to C3 herds. Research carried out by UCD regarding the contribution to TB herd risk of inward cattle movement from higher risk TB herds, and on whether there is an association between TB incidence and county boundaries, is to be presented at the next Forum. The question of overlaying badger capture data on the cluster maps is to be discussed at the

	next IWG. The research regarding the risks for dairy herds is to be re-circulated.
Working groups update	The working groups provided an update of their work to date. The SWG Chair asked for responses to the questionnaire that issued to TB Forum representatives. Simon More gave a presentation on the relative contribution of each of the different TB risk factors. In summary, the research to-date finds that the relative contribution of the different risk factors varies between different areas and so focus is needed on all sources of transmission. The Cumbria study is to be re-circulated. The FWG Chair gave a brief overview of its work to date. See attached report from the IWG which was presented at the meeting.
Actions to reduce TB 2023 - 2025	DAFM gave an overview of a series of proposals to implement from 2023-2025 to further reduce TB transmission and requested additional suggestions from the TB Forum members. DAFM proposed a target for 2022 of 3.8% herd incidence; overall there was general agreement that it would be good to have a target. However, it was also argued that it is difficult to put a target on something that has so many variables. The IFA did not support the setting of a target for herd incidence. The Farming Organisations emphasised the importance of fully resourcing the wildlife programme, the need to focus on breeding stock, TB test quality control and inconclusives, and made the point that policies introduced in 2021 and 2022 can be expected to have an impact throughout 2022 on TB levels.
Date of next meeting and close of meeting.	The Chair thanked all representatives for their contribution and summarised the main points. The next TB Forum will be held in 6-7 weeks, in person if possible, and the focus will be on the proposals to reduce TB.

### Action Points

1	DAFM to analyse movements out of C0 to C3 herds by age.
2	Simon Moore to present two pieces of research to the TB Forum. (a) Research on whether there is an association between TB risk and county boundaries. (b) Research on the contribution to TB herd risk of inward cattle movement from higher risk TB herds.
3	DAFM to circulate studies on TB risk factors and dairy herds.
4	Overlay of badger captures on the cluster map to be discussed at the IWG.
5	DAFM to circulate the Cumbria whole genome sequencing study.