



**Meeting:** Bovine TB Stakeholder Forum Implementation Working Group (IWG) – Meeting 14.  
**Date:** 05 April 2022  
**Time:** 11:00 – 13:00.  
**Location:** Virtual Meeting.  
**Purpose:** The stated purpose of the IWG is to consider the details and modalities for the policies set out in the bTB strategy.

### Attendees

**Chair:**

Sean Brady

**Chair TB Forum:**

Michael Cronin

**Organisations:**

Paul Smyth, ICMSA; Hugh Farrell, John Barron, ICSA; Ray Doyle, ICOS; TJ Maher, T Bourke, IFA; Kevin Twomey, Farmer; James Lynch, David Graham, Animal Health Ireland; Patrick Greenan, Macra na Feirme; Michael Miley, Communications.

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

Patricia Reilly, Eoin Ryan, Karina Wrigley, Philip Breslin, James O’Keeffe, Aileen Tighe

**Bovine TB Forum Secretariat:**

Donal Mooney, Anthony Stringer.

**Apologies:**

Rosanne Greene, DAFM

### Minutes

Item	Minutes
Introduction by Chair	The Chair welcomed all representatives to the meeting and thanked everyone for their contribution and time. The Chair welcomed Aileen Tighe, Veterinary Inspector, to the meeting.
Minutes of last meeting	The minutes of meeting 13 were agreed and the action points were discussed; the IWG chair has written to the Minister of Agriculture about the wildlife programme’s current resources. The IFA requested that farming organisations have an input into the terms of reference of the Deer Management Forum.
Disease trends and wildlife update	DAFM provided an update on current disease trends. The inconclusive policy is now one year old. There were 1,521 inconclusives since April 2021. 528/825 were positive when blood tested. A whole genome sequence case study was presented to the IWG and was noted for its valuable information towards the understanding of bovine tuberculosis.
Communications	DAFM gave an update on communications. The first of four published testimonials were featured in the Farmers Journal. The

	chair noted its importance and thanked all those involved with its publication. The engagement with Teagasc continues. This collaboration includes the upcoming beef open day at Teagasc Grange, the availability of a TB focused VI at discussion groups, farm walks, Teagasc college lectures and Private Veterinary Practitioner meetings. The communication subgroup continues to meet, and it will meet again on the 20 April 2022. Recent discussions have been on the dissemination of information about the new EU Animal Health Law and reactor pack material. There is also ongoing communication with other TB related jurisdictions. On the 01 April there was a meeting with the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs. And recently a delegation from Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (England) met with Department of Agriculture colleagues in Kilkenny.
<b>Presentation on TB reduction in Co. Clare</b>	Aileen Tighe, Veterinary Inspector gave a presentation to the IWG on the recent reduction of bovine TB in county Clare. TB herd incidence has reduced from 4.5% (2019) to 2.9% (2021). Credit for the success was given to a dedicated farming community, fully resourced teams (technical, wildlife, veterinary and administration), the badger programme (with farmer cooperation on reporting badger setts) and to communications that raised awareness. Aileen talked about the Burren High Impact TB (HIT) programme and what a fully resourced team can do to reduce TB. Aileen also talked about the farming culture in the Burren, its unique ecology, geology, evidence of ancient farming practice and the future of TB in the county. There was a question-and-answer session following the presentation.
<b>Targets</b>	Targets for TB levels were discussed at the last TB Forum, but the idea gained little support from stakeholders. The proposal put forward at today's meeting was to have Department targets relating to the work of the IWG. The stakeholders supported this idea. The following targets were agreed upon and are to be reported on quarterly to IWG <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Badgers to be captured in 2022: a figure of 13,000 set.</li> <li>2. TB Test quality control on PVPs: DAFM to check 180 PVPs in 2022.</li> <li>3. Whole genome sequence: 800 to be completed in 2022.</li> <li>4. DAFM provide quarterly report on reactor removal times</li> <li>5. DAFM provide quarterly report on length of TB restriction times.</li> </ol>
<b>Any other business</b>	Michael Cronin told the group the next TB Forum is provisionally scheduled for the 26 <sup>th</sup> April. The Minister is hoping to attend the next meeting.
<b>Date of next meeting</b>	The aim is to have the next meeting on Tuesday 03 May 2022

### Action Points

<b>1</b>	DAFM to provide APT statistics at next IWG
<b>2</b>	Circulation of two journal articles: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Is there an association between road building and bovine tuberculosis herd risk? A three time-point study in Ireland, 2011–2019.</li> </ol>

	2. Engaging with Farmers to Explore Correlates of Bovine Tuberculosis Risk in an Internationally Important Heritage Landscape: The Burren, in the West of Ireland.
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