



**Meeting:** Bovine TB Stakeholder Forum's Implementation Working Group (IWG) – Meeting 22.

**Date:** 06 December 2022

**Time:** 11:00 – 13:00

**Location:** Online 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

**Organisations:**

Anna Daly, TJ Maher, IFA; Des Morrison, Paul Smyth ICMSA; Hugh Farrell, John Barron, ICSA; Ray Doyle, James O'Donnell, ICOS; James Lynch, David Graham, Animal Health Ireland; Niall Feery NPWS; Pat Neville Coillte; Kate O'Dwyer, Veterinary Ireland.

**Communications:** Michael Miley.

**Chair of TB Forum:** Michael Cronin.

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

Damien Barrett, Conor O'Mahony, Rosanne Greene, Mary Courtney, Martina Ryan, David Quinn.

**Bovine TB Forum Secretariat:**

Donal Mooney, Anthony Stringer.

**Apologies:**

Pádraic Fogarty, IWT; Tara Keogh DAFM.

### Minutes

Item	Minutes
Introduction by Chair	The Chair welcomed all members to the meeting and thanked everyone for their time and contribution.
Minutes of last meeting	Minutes of the last meeting were agreed. The Chair listed the action points of the last meeting and discussed them.
Disease Trends	The Department presented current disease trends. There is a sharp rise in reactor numbers. Larger more intensive herds are accounting for the greatest number of reactors.
Communications Update	The Department provided an update on communications since the last meeting and outlined the upcoming communications campaign for the introduction of the new TB testing requirements under the European Union's Animal Health Law.

<b>Tipperary Case Study</b>	Tipperary Regional Veterinary Office presented a case study on a severe breakdown in a non-milking cohort on a dairy farm. Questions and answers followed.
<b>Wildlife Programme Update</b>	The Department provided an update on the Wildlife Programme. The update included the number of FRS and Technical vacancies. There was a discussion about the vacancies and the potential impact this is having on the delivery of the Wildlife Programme. The Chair stated he had written to the Minister in relation to the Wildlife Programme. A copy of the letter is to be circulated directly after the meeting.
<b>Any other business</b>	Issues regarding Income Supplement in contract rearing situations and length of time for a culture were discussed.
<b>Date of next meeting</b>	10 January 2023 at 11 AM.

### Action Points

<b>1</b>	DAFM to provide a breakdown by herd type for herds in the 90 <sup>th</sup> percentile for breakdowns for earlier years.
<b>2</b>	DAFM to circulate Map of Prevalence i.e., map of current restrictions.
<b>3</b>	DAFM to investigate if it can issue an acknowledgement to all people who have reported badger activity to-date and to consider sending a reminder SMS in January.
<b>4</b>	Farming Organisations to ensure they have provided their Wildlife contacts per county to David Quinn.
<b>5</b>	Communication Working Group members to suggest possible date for next meeting and relevant items for the agenda.
<b>6</b>	DAFM to ask Siobhan Ring ICBF for a breakdown of 10% Health on the Economic Breeding Index (EBI) in respect of what it represents.
<b>7</b>	Consideration should be given to writing to the AI stations to promote the use of TB resistant bulls.
<b>8</b>	The top 20 dairy and beef bulls and their TB index scores are to be presented at the next meeting.