

Minutes of National Interdepartmental AMR Consultative Committee's 13th Meeting

Thursday 20th May 2021 – 2:30pm – 4:30pm

Webex Video Conference chaired by the Department of Health

Attendance

Chairs

Dr Martin Blake – Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) – Department of Agriculture, Food, and the Marine & Committee Co-Chair (MB)

Ms Marita Kinsella – Director, National Patient Safety Office (o.b.o. Dr Tony Holohan, (CMO) & Co-Chair) (MK)

Committee Members

Professor Martin Cormican – HSE AMRIC Clinical Lead (MC)

Dr Margaret O'Sullivan – Chair, National Zoonoses Committee (MOS)

Ms Brigid Doherty – Public Representative (BD)

Mr Tomás Bourke – Animal Health Executive Secretary, Irish Farmers Association (IFA) (Alternate for Mr Joe Healy, President, IFA) (TB)

Dr Jonathan Derham – Programme Manager, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) (Alternate for Dr Laura Burke, Director, EPA) (JD)

Dr Aisling O'Connor – Scientific Officer Research, EPA (AOC)

Ms Lisa O'Connor – Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI) (Alternate for Dr Pamela Byrne, CEO FSAI) (LOC)

Ms Olive Smyth – Health Products Regulatory Authority (HPRA) (Alternate for Dr Lorraine Nolan, CEO, HPRA) (OS)

Mr John Enright – Irish Creamery and Milk Suppliers Association (ICMSA) (Alternate for Mr Lorcan McCabe, Deputy President ICMSA) (JE)

Ms Niamh Muldoon – Chief Executive Officer, Veterinary Council of Ireland (NM)

Mr David Graham – Chief Executive Officer, Animal Health Ireland (DG)

Department of Health (DoH)

Ms Rosarie Lynch - Head of Clinical Effectiveness, AMR & Surveillance, National Patient Safety Office (RL)

Dr Laura Dooley - AMR Team, National Patient Safety Office (LD)

Ms Sarah Delaney – AMR Team, National Patient Safety Office (SD)

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

Mr Paul Corkery – Senior Superintending Veterinary Inspector (PC)

Ms Marie McElroy – Department of Agriculture, Food, and the Marine (MMCE)

Ms Rosemarie Slowey – Senior Research Officer, Department of Agriculture, Food, and the Marine (RS)

Ms Julie Bolton – Veterinary Inspector (JB)

Ms Linda Malone – Veterinary Medicines Division (LM)

In attendance: Health Service Executive (HSE)

Dr Eimear Brannigan - Consultant in Infectious Diseases, Deputy Clinical Lead, Antimicrobial Resistance and Infection Control Team (AMRIC) (EB)

Ms Shirley Keane – Programme Manager, Office of HSE Clinical Lead, Antimicrobial Resistance and Infection Control Team (AMRIC), Health Service Executive (SK)

Apologies

Dr Tony Holohan – Chief Medical Officer (CMO) DoH & Committee Co-Chair (TH)

Ms Paula Barry Walsh – Deputy Chief Veterinary Officer (DCVO) (PBW)

Dr Lorraine Nolan – Chief Executive Officer, Health Products Regulatory Authority (LN)

Ms Caroline Garvan – Superintending Veterinary Inspector (CG)

1. Welcome and Apologies

MK welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked DAFM for all their assistance with the hosting of the meeting as the Department of Health communications have still to be fully restored post cyber-attack. The ongoing impact of COVID-19 on the work of the Department of Health was also noted.

MB recognised these challenges and thanked everyone for their efforts in attending the meeting today. It was also noted that COVID-19 response has shown value of interdepartmental and cross societal working and relationships.

Apologies have been provided for the following members:

- Dr Tony Holohan (CMO) Co-Chair - DOH
- Ms Paula Barry Walsh (DCVO) - DAFM
- Dr Lorraine Nolan - CEO, HPRA
- Ms Caroline Garvan – DAFM

The presence of HSE colleagues Dr Eimear Brannigan, HSE AMRIC Deputy Clinical Lead and Ms Shirley Keane, Programme Manager, HSE AMRIC Team was acknowledged.

2. Minutes/Actions

Minutes from 12th Meeting of the Interdepartmental AMR Consultative Committee were adopted.

Actions and matters arising:

- Actions have been progressed
- **Action 1: DoH to send out slides from previous meeting**
- Members were previously requested to consider the future direction of the Committee and any further feedback related to this is still welcomed in the context of a One Health Framework approach. Input can be emailed to the secretariat.

3. Conflict of Interest Forms

Conflict of Interest forms are to be circulated to Committee Members and should be considered and returned to the Secretariat (DoH/DAFM) on completion.

Action 2: Secretariat to circulate COI forms and members to complete and return.

4. iNAP2 Update

An overview of both the direction of travel and the One Health actions in iNAP2 was provided.

RL gave an overview from the One Health perspective on behalf of DoH and DAFM (in CG's absence).

Key aspects and proposals included:

- Inclusion of One Health actions in iNAP2 with "One Health" in the title
- Ongoing participation in the One Health Network hosted by the European Commission
- Engagement with One Health Country Monitoring Visits as provided by the European Commission and ECDC - towards the end of iNAP2
- Collaboration with Northern Ireland on AMR policy
- Establish a single webpage for AMR policy- www.gov.ie/amr
- Progress a second One Health Surveillance Report and develop a sustainable process for regular preparation and publication
- Promote AMR, IPC and AMS research with research stakeholders to fill research gaps

Action 3: The share slides from presentation with the Committee will be circulated.

RL also outlined the progress with regard to human health and thanked all stakeholders for their contributions, acknowledging the HSE AMRIC team in particular for their assistance in the development of iNAP2 especially given the workload involved with COVID-19 and the recent cyber-attack.

RL outlined that a mid-term review of the iNAP2 human health actions was under consideration to allow for any further refinement and prioritisation that may be needed given that AMR and IPC work is influenced by the COVID-19 pandemic. The wording of actions is being drafted with this review in mind.

JB updated the meeting on the animal health sector with an overview of the actions and the roadmap for the next five years. There are 64 Animal Health actions including 43 new actions across the five strategic objectives. A major focus of iNAP2 will be to engage more in social media/webinars and the extension of the programme to include companion animals and horses. Indicators and tangible outputs were also a focus.

There was discussion the indicators and outputs and how to best capture and use these under iNAP2. This included the following considerations:

- when and how the indicators would be monitored.
- the indicators were a key output from the ECDC One Health AMR Country visit to Ireland in October 2019. It was confirmed that human health indicators are already in place through the HSE National Service Plan processes and these would be highlighted more in iNAP2. The Committee were also made aware of a new indicator related to AMR under Sustainable Development Goal 3 which will be monitored against for human health.
- DAFM would be setting targets by species. The EU has recommended reduction in antimicrobial consumption by 50% by 2030. DAFM were working towards tracking prescriptions by species.
- The indicators from the National Healthcare Quality Reporting System (NHQRS) could also be highlighted in iNAP2. The NHQRS is a DOH publication across a range of indicators on healthcare quality which also includes the international data.
- Inclusion of indicators was essential however it should be noted that human health presented with a very different risk environment.
- It was noted that the 50% in antimicrobial reduction on the animal health side was a recommendation and not a regulatory requirement. Also, the high number of activities, some already in progress, for animal health. The level of Human Health activity and the perceived difference in regulatory obligations for prescribing antimicrobials in Animal and Human Health was queried.
- It was underlined that there are substantial regulatory requirements for human health and DOH assured the committee that human health was not held to a lesser standard of regulation. MC agreed that the inclusion of indicators was essential however human health presented with a very different risk environment.
- The DAFM publication on Highest-Priority Critically Important Antibiotics was noted.

All agreed that further improvements in the use of indicators could be made and this was important under iNAP2. It was acknowledged that further improvements would be beneficial.

It was noted that while some delays had been experienced in the development of the Human Health aspects of iNAP2 as a result of the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic, significant work has now been progressed.

EPA queried if wildlife had been included in the development of iNAP2 from an animal health perspective and suggested This might be an opportunity to be proactive in this area.

5. One Health Surveillance Report

RL advised the Committee that no progress on this report stalled in March 2020 and during 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic due to the redeployment of staff both in DoH and the HSE to work on this. With a view to re-establishing a reporting cycle and analyse and provide the 2017, 2018 and 2019 data, DoH have secured funding to support the development of the second report. The tender specification is being drafted to seek an academic partner to progress the second report. Further work is also required to ensure the sustainability of publication of reports into the future and this will be considered under iNAP2.

6. One Health Network Meeting

RL updated the Committee on behalf of DoH and DAFM. DG SANTE hosted a one day virtual EU AMR One Health Network meeting on 25th March 2021. The agenda included a focus on: *The future approach and tools to fight AMR; International developments on AMR; and updates from One Health Network members and the future development and operation of the Network.*

- Under session 1, updates were provided on the Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority (HERA), The Pharmaceutical Strategy for Europe, Pharmaceuticals in the Environment, Veterinary Medicinal Products and Medicated Feed Regulations in support of Farm to Fork Strategy, and progress on 2017 EU Action Plan on AMR.
- Under session 2, G7 work on AMR and the latest developments under Tripartite Plus were shared including the approval of an SDG indicator on AMR and the change of language from antibiotic to antimicrobial for World Antimicrobial Awareness Week 18-24 Nov 2021 was outlined.
- Session 3 included an acknowledgment that the EU Joint Action on AMR (EU-JAMRAI) is now complete and policy briefs / outputs are available on that website. As part of a focus on Member States AMR One Health National Action Plans Ireland was invited to present on iNAP1, and a joint One Health presentation was prepared by DOH, DAFM and EPA. The experience from the ECDC Country Monitoring Visits was also discussed and Ireland was cited as a good example.

Action 4: Slides to be shared following meeting.

7. EFSA Report – Overview of Findings Update

RS presented some slides on the findings of EFSA Report.....

DAFM please insert. In particular suggest Rosemary's conclusions from the last slide.

8. VAT on Vaccines

It was noted this issue has been discussed at previous meetings. DAFM advised that there was value in having all vaccines zero rated for VAT.

DOH advised that they have been considering this from the human health perspective and are currently awaiting some clarifications on data etc. It was noted that the majority of vaccines relating to human health are provided through the various public immunisation schemes and there are different incentives and impacts in the different sectors.

The IFA outlined that they had been requesting zero rated VAT on vaccines for a number of years and although there was full agreement from all parties the situation is not moving with expediency. The zero VAT rate would mean significant savings for farmers. He requested that this matter be progressed as quickly as possible.

Whilst agreeing with the IFA around the vat on vaccines it was also pointed out that this change in VAT rate was not within the gift of either DAFM or DoH but agreed to progress the matter.

9. AOB

MB thanking everyone for their participation and particularly acknowledged colleagues in both DoH and HSE AMRIC for their work in difficult circumstances.

It was agreed that the issue of wildlife would become more central as iNAP2 progresses.

10. Date of next meeting

Thursday 11th November 2021. Invitations to be issued by DAFM as they will be hosting meeting.

Also, a date for the diary is European Antibiotic Awareness Day which will be on 18th November 2021.

11. Actions

	Actions	Organisation
1	Slides from Human Health presentation (12 th Meeting)	DoH
2	Secretariat to circulate COI forms and members to complete and return.	DoH / DAFM / members
3	One Health slides on behalf of DoH & DAFM to Committee	DoH
4	One Health Network Meeting slides to Committee Members	DoH