



**Meeting:** Bovine TB Stakeholder Forum's Implementation Working Group (IWG) – Meeting 26.

**Date:** 04 April 2023

**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:**

Kevin Twomey, Farmer; TJ Maher, Anna Daly IFA; Des Morrison, Paul Smyth, ICMSA; John Keane, Macra; Hugh Farrell, John Barron, ICSA; James O'Donnell, Ray Doyle, , ICOS; James Lynch, David Graham, Animal Health Ireland.

**Chair of TB Forum:** Michael Cronin

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

Damien Barrett, Conor O Mahony, David J Quinn, James O'Keeffe; Jim McCartan (Navan RVO)

**Bovine TB Forum Secretariat:**

Karina Wrigley; Aishling Cronin, Donal Mooney, Anthony Stringer, Mary Hynes.

**Apologies:**

### 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 and discussed the action points from the last meeting.  |
| Disease Trends                        | The Department presented an update on current disease trends. Herd incidence is now at 4.40% compared to 4.39% in 2022. The number of reactors has risen since this time last year. Please see presentation.  |
| Louth / Meath Case Study Presentation | Jim McCartan VI Navan RVO presented a case study of a large dairy herd breakdown in the Louth and Meath area with quality PVP testing. General discussion took place on the case. A review of the herds historical purchases, TB testing history and genotyping was used to try and identify how the infection was introduced. Wildlife did not appear to be an issue while a beef herd in proximity is a totally closed herd with no interaction. Please see presentation. |

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| <b>Communications</b>                       | The Department presented an update on communications since the last IWG meeting. A plan of action was agreed at the last communications working group (CWG) meeting. Teagasc and the Department's information group has reconvened with an engagement plan for 2023. There will be an ESRI study commencing; its focus will be on Farmer understanding of TB biosecurity. Next CWG on the 16th of May. Please see presentation.  |
| <b>Wildlife Programme</b>                   | <p>The Department presented and discussed human resources within the wildlife programme. Eleven vacancies currently exist across the country at TAO level. FRS vacancies exist where there is a TAO shortage. The recruitment of technical staff has been discussed with the Department's Human Resources and the Public Appointments Service. A number of recruitment issues were identified, and a number of solutions were provided and will be acted on.</p> <p>A change has been made to the badger app: it now sends an automatic response to the person making the submission. Four hundred and sixty-one submissions were made in 2022. Please see presentation.</p> |
| <b>Update on the TB Oversight Programme</b> | The Department presented and updated on the TB oversight of restricted herd's programme. Targeting status 1 herds (i.e. reactors at most recent test) restricted for long periods over and above 150 days and severe breakdown herds (i.e. 3 or more Rs). Please see presentation.   |
| <b>Any Other Business</b>                   | Deer Management Forum next meeting 27 <sup>th</sup> April and invitations have issued to stakeholders.   |
| <b>Date of Next Meeting</b>                 | Tuesday 02 May 2023 at 11am.   |

#### Action Points

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| <b>1</b> | The Department is to provide a per county break down of badger vaccination and culling for 2022 and to date in 2023. |
| <b>2</b> | The Department to provide an update on reactor removal times.  |