



Meeting: Bovine TB Stakeholder Forum's Implementation Working Group (IWG) – Meeting 28.

Date: 06 June 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:

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

Chair of TB Forum: Michael Cronin

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

Damien Barrett, Conor O Mahony, David J Quinn

Bovine TB Forum Secretariat:

James O'Keeffe; Donal Mooney, Anthony Stringer, Mary Hynes.

Apologies: Elaine Houlihan, Macra, Pádraic Fogarty, IWT

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 current disease trends. Nationally, reactor numbers, herd incidence and the number of restricted herds have continued to increase. Please see circulated presentation.
Wildlife Update	The Department gave an update on the wildlife programme. It provided information on the number of badgers captured in cull and vaccination zones along with the number of new setts found. Since 2019 the number of badgers captured has increased year on year, and to date, the number of badgers captured has increased. The total number at the end of the year 2022 was 12,430 whereas in the middle of May 2023 it is at 8,347. The effort and progress made on the ground was acknowledged by the Department and congratulated by IWG. Question and answers followed with a discussion on fencing

	off badger setts, the method and fencing type to use and noting that fencing off badger setts is to keep cattle away. The Department was asked to provide further information at the next meeting on the finances of the wildlife programme and resources. Please see circulated presentation.
Communications, inconclusives and private test analysis post introduction of the EU animal health law.	<p>The Department provided an overview of the ongoing communications since the last meeting.</p> <p>Statistics were provided by the Department on the number of inconclusives since 09 April 2021 and historic inconclusives prior to this date.</p> <p>Statistics were given on the number of private tests, excluding exports, since the introduction of the EU animal health law on 01 February 2023.</p> <p>Please see circulated presentation.</p>
Date of Next Meeting	<p>Tuesday 11th July at 11am.</p> <p>No meeting to be held in August as holiday period.</p>

Action Points

1	DAFM to provide timeframes involved for reporting of TB Skin Tests. (Damien Barrett)
2	DAFM provide presentation on Wildlife finances and staffing levels (David Quinn)
3	DAFM issue SMS re removal of historic inconclusive animals. (Conor O Mahony)