



Meeting: Bovine TB Stakeholder Forum's Implementation Working Group (IWG) – Meeting 30.

Date: 05 September 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

Chair of TB Forum: Michael Cronin

Organisations:

Des Morrison, Paul Smyth, ICMSA; Hugh Farrell, John Barron ICSA; Tomas Bourke, TJ Farrell IFA; Ray Doyle, Joe Patton, Teagasc; David Graham, James Lynch, AHI; Hazel Mullins Veterinary Ireland.

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

Damien Barrett, Conor O Mahony, David Quinn, Karina Wrigley, Rosanne Greene.

Bovine TB Forum Secretariat:

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

Apologies: Michael Miley; James O'Donnell, ICOS.

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 meeting twenty-nine were agreed. The Chair discussed the action points from the last meeting.
Disease Trends update	The Department presented current disease trends. Herd incidence and reactor numbers have continued to increase. One hundred and eighty TB TASAH's have been completed so far. The Department will revisit the seven hundred farmers originally contacted, and it will widen the scope. Definitions of H and L herds have changed since 01 September 2023. The contiguous programme will also change. Details of the new definition will be circulated to the IWG.
Communications update	The Department presented an update on communications since the last meeting. There was an update on historic inconclusives and on inconclusive reactors. Data on animal health law post movement testing were also presented.
Wildlife update	The Department presented an update on the wildlife programme. Discussion focused on staffing and the additional funding given to the programme. A partnership approach to the wildlife programme was

	suggested. The Chair will write a letter to Minister McConalogue about the concerns of the group
Attitude of PVPs to the TB programme	The Department presented its findings from its study on the attitude of Private Veterinary Practitioners to the TB Programme. The presentation and findings were welcomed. Farming bodies acknowledged the findings but noted that various issues raised by them through their submissions during the establishment of the TB Forum were reflected in some of the findings of this survey.
Whole Genome Case Study	This presentation was postponed until the next meeting.
Date of next meeting	Tuesday 03 October 2023 11 AM

Action Points

1	DAFM to circulate information about the changes in definition to H and L herds and the contiguous programme.
2	The Chair will write to the Minister about the wildlife programme