



Meeting: Bovine TB Stakeholder Forum's Implementation Working Group (IWG) – Meeting 31.

Date: 03 October 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

The Agri-Food and BioSciences Institute (AFBI): Adrian Allen

Organisations:

Des Morrison, Paul Smyth, ICMSA; Hugh Farrell, John Barron ICMA; Tomas Bourke, TJ Farrell IFA; Ray Doyle ICOS; James Lynch, David Graham, AHI; Derrie Dillion Macra na Feirme; Kevin Twomey, Farmer.

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

Damien Barrett, Conor O Mahony, James O'Keeffe, Rosanne Greene.

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

David Quinn, John Mullen; Siobhan Finn, Aishling Cronin.

Bovine TB Forum Secretariat:

Donal Mooney, Anthony Stringer, Mary Hynes.

Apologies: Karina Wrigley

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 thirty were agreed. The Chair discussed the action points from the last meeting.
TB WGS presentation by Adrian Allen from The Agri-Food and BioSciences Institute (AFBI)	Dr. Adrian Allen gave a presentation on whole genome sequencing (WGS) in Northern Ireland. Please see circulated presentation. Discussion and questions and answers followed. The Chair complemented Dr. Allen on the massive amount of WGS data available in Northern Ireland.

Communications Update	The Department gave an update on the programme's communications since the last meeting. Please see circulated presentation.
High and Low Risk Herds Policy Update	The Department presented information and data on the High and Low Risk Herds policy. Discussion followed. This topic will feature at the next IWG meeting.
Any other business	<p>The presentation and discussion of Risk Mitigation Plans and a whole genome sequencing case study will take place at the next IWG meeting.</p> <p>Farming organisations expressed their grave concerns of inconsistencies in programme implementation by RVOs which leads to differing treatment of farmers across the counties and they called for immediate action to be taken on this issue by DAFM.</p> <p>The next TB Forum will take place at Backweston on 24th October where discussion will centre on a paper by the Scientific Working Group on a Regional Approach to TB Eradication.</p>
Date of next meeting	Tuesday 31 October 2023 4pm.

Action Points

1	TJ Maher, IFA to be included as part of email circulation list.
2	Chair, Sean Brady's letter to Minister re wildlife resources to be circulated to the group.
3	DAFM to urgently consider reviewing consistency of programme implementation by RVOs.