



**An Roinn Talmhaíochta,  
Bia agus Mara**  
Department of Agriculture,  
Food and the Marine

Meeting: Bovine TB Stakeholder Forum's Implementation Working Group (IWG) – Meeting 33.  
Date: 07 December 2023  
Time: 14:30 – 16:45  
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:

Hugh Farrell, John Barron ICOSA; Des Morrison, ICMSA; Tomas Bourke, TJ Farrell IFA; Vivian Buttimer ICOS; James Lynch, AHI; Kevin Twomey, Farmer; Hazel Mullins, Veterinary Ireland; Michael Curran, Macra.

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

Damien Barrett, Conor O Mahony, Ann Quinn, David J Quinn, Rosanne Greene

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

Karina Wrigley, Siobhan Finn, Michael Horan, John Mullen, Aishling Cronin.

#### Bovine TB Forum Secretariat:

Donal Mooney, Anthony Stringer

Apologies: Paul Smyth, ICMSA.

#### 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-two were agreed. The Chair discussed the action points from the last meeting.
Disease trends update	The Department gave an update on current disease trends and showed the herd risk category of beef, dairy, suckler and other herd types. Discussion followed. Please see circulated presentation.

Proposals on ending relapse designation.	It was agreed that the Department will send an email to the IWG representatives asking them for proposals on ending relapse designation. For clarity, the email will also include how herds enter a relapse designation.
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Communications	<p>The Department presented communications since the last IWG meeting and reviewed the TB Programme's 2023 Communications Action Plan. There was a lot done, but more to do.</p> <p>The review also included Inconclusive reactors since April 2021, the EU Animal Health Law and the Targeted Advisory Service on Animal Health (TASAH).</p>
Riak Mitigation Plans	The Department presented its continued progress on Risk Mitigation Plans. It outlined the background of introducing RMPs and its current criteria and system. The Department gave an overview of the future system of RMPs linking compensation and risk.
Wildlife update	<p>The Department presented a Wildlife Programme update. The update included current vacancies in Area Management Teams North and South, current badger vaccination and culling figures and current Badger App use numbers. The update also touched on the approach to overcome TAO vacancies, FRS training and Wildlife Programme expenditure.</p> <p>The Department expressed concern at a recent press release from one of the Farm Organisations which stated that some DAFM staff were 'walking past setts'. The Department expressed concern that this type commentary was not helpful to collaborative efforts to further the aims of the Wildlife Programme. A robust discussion on the wildlife programme ensued.</p>
Wildlife Workshops	Ann Quinn, Superintending Veterinary Inspector presented the 'North Kilkenny Enhanced TB Management Programme'. It was an overview on how effective communication, stakeholder collaboration and farmer education helped reduce the spread of TB after a high number of breakdowns which peaked in September 2022.
AOB	Members of the meeting thanked and wished Rosanne Greene all the best in her new role with AIM Division in 2024.
Date of next meeting	Tuesday 09 January 2023, 11:30

#### Action Points

1	The Department is to send email requesting proposals from members of the IWG on the criteria for a herd to exit relapse designation.
2	The Department is to provide a breakdown of the position of herds in vaccinated areas over the years as a comparison. Detail to be provided at 2 <sup>nd</sup> or 3 <sup>rd</sup> meeting in 2024.
3	The Department is to circulate the Deer Management Strategy to the group.

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Farming Organisations to email their Wildlife contact lists to  
[DavidJ.Quinn@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:DavidJ.Quinn@agriculture.gov.ie)