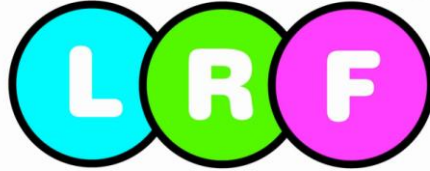


Devon • Cornwall • Isles of Scilly



Local Resilience Forum

# LRF ANIMAL HEALTH PLAN

**IMMEDIATE ACTIONS ON ACTIVATION:** Refer to page 8



PREPARING FOR EMERGENCIES

All items in this document are classed as open under the Freedom of Information Act unless otherwise stated. All closed items include the relevant Freedom of Information Act exemption.

<b>Title of document:</b>	<b>DCIoS LRF Animal Health Plan</b>
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### Revision History

Revision Date	Version No.	Summary of Charge	Changes Made By	Authorised by	Date
14/06/12	d1.0	New draft	N Hamlyn	AH subgroup	05/07/12
14/08/12	d2.0	Revised draft, post subgroup consultation	N Hamlyn	AH subgroup	06/09/12
06/09/12	d3.1	Revised during subgroup meeting; distributed for further consultation	N Hamlyn	AH subgroup	21/11/12
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11/11/13	v1.1	Minor amendments throughout	N Hamlyn	AH T&F Group	18/11/13
18/11/13	v1.2	Minor amendments throughout	M Beer	LRF Secretariat	18/11/13

### Distribution

This plan is for distribution to all LRF Partners.

### Ownership

This Plan is owned by the Devon, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly LRF, and maintained and updated by the Capability Lead for Animal Health. All users are asked to advise the LRF of any changes in circumstances that may materially affect the plan in any way.

Details of changes should be sent to:

Devon, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly (DCIoS) Local Resilience Forum (LRF)  
Email [lrf@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk](mailto:lrf@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk)

<b>Contents</b>		<b>Page No.</b>
<b>Section 1 - Background</b>		
1.1	Introduction	4
1.2	Aims and Objectives	4
1.3	Risk	4
<b>Section 2 – Response</b>		
2.1	AHVLA Response and Communications Prior To Confirmation of Disease	5
2.2	Trigger levels	5
2.3	AHVLA Response and Communications Following Confirmation of Disease	6
2.4	Activation process	7
2.5	<b>IMMEDIATE ACTIONS on plan activation</b>	8
2.6	Response Co-ordination	8
2.7	List of local animal disease outbreak plans	9
<b>Section 3 – Managing the response</b>		
3.1	Information and Communication	10
3.2	Media Co-ordination	10
3.3	Business Continuity	10
3.4	Local Disease Control Centre (LDCC)	10
3.5	Other Management structures and Groups	11
3.6	Roles and Responsibilities	11
<b>Annexes</b>		
A	Strategic Co-ordinating Group (SCG) Agenda	13
B	Protocol for Joint Patrols	14
C	LDCC Battle Rhythm	15
<b>Appendix</b>		
1	AHVLA SW Exotic Disease Outbreak Contingency Plan	

## Section 1 - Background

### 1.1. Introduction

This animal health plan represents the outcome of the Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly Local Resilience Forum (LRF) review based on experience gained from previous incidents.

It should be used to assist in the initial activation of an exotic disease outbreak and used as a signposting document to other local outbreak plans that carry more detail.

This plan gives the details of agreed actions of partner agencies within the LRF. It also explains how the LRF will work together in a co-ordinated way to minimise any threat to our community.

### 1.2. Aim and Objectives

#### Aim

This plan will be the first point of reference for all responders so that they understand what the immediate actions are in the event of a major incident of an exotic animal disease outbreak within the Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly Local Resilience Forum (DCIoS LRF) area.

#### Objectives

- Recognise the triggers and processes required to activate the plan.
- List the immediate actions on activation of the plan.
- Signpost the animal disease outbreak plans that will be used.
- Explain the process for setting up the Local Disease Control Centre (LDCC) and its relationship to the Strategic Co-ordinating Group (SCG) and/or any Tactical Co-ordinating Groups (TCG).

### 1.3. Risk

The risks relating to an animal disease outbreak in the DCIoS LRF area is covered within three different risk assessments, further details can be found in the LRF Community Risk Register. The risks are monitored by Animal Health & Veterinary Laboratories Agency (AHVLA) on behalf of the LRF. Any changes will be notified through the normal LRF channels:

#### AH001 MEDIUM RISK

Non-zoonotic notifiable animal diseases: e.g. Foot and Mouth, Classical Swine fever, Blue Tongue, Newcastle Disease. Refer to risk assessment for more detail.

#### AH002 HIGH RISK

Zoonotic notifiable animal diseases: e.g. Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI), West Nile Virus. Refer to risk assessment for more detail.

#### AH003 MEDIUM RISK

Zoonotic notifiable animal diseases: Rabies

## Section 2 – Response

### 2.1 AHVLA Response and Communications Prior To Confirmation of Disease

The following table 1 shows the communications expected during veterinary enquiry and prior to any disease confirmation.

**Table 1 - Initial reports**

Stage	Notification Method	Level of detail	Example	From	To	For distribution to
Initial report received	Not required					AHVLA internal
Suspicion of disease	Text & email	Suspected Disease, County/Town level location, Species, Confirm if samples taken.	“Suspect Avian Influenza Disease being investigated at Exeter in a flock of chicken. Samples have been taken, results pending, update to follow.”	Regional Resilience Manager (RRM), AHVLA	Operational Partners	LRF Co-ordinator
Disease negated	Text & email	Disease; area; result.	Suspected Avian Influenza negated on clinical grounds.	RRM	Operational Partners	LRF Co-ordinator

### 2.2 Triggers

There are numerous factors that could trigger the activation of this LRF plan. Each primary trigger is different depending on the type of animal disease outbreak. Should a trigger be reached then move to activation (paragraph 2.4):

**Table 2 - Triggers**

Risk identification	AH001	AH002	AH003
Description	Non-zoonotic notifiable animal diseases: examples: Foot and Mouth, Classical Swine fever, Blue Tongue, Newcastle Disease	Zoonotic notifiable animal diseases: examples: Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI), West Nile Virus	Zoonotic notifiable animal diseases: Rabies
<b>For a full list of diseases see the DEFRA website: <a href="http://www.defra.gov.uk/animal-diseases/notifiable/">http://www.defra.gov.uk/animal-diseases/notifiable/</a></b>			

<b>Trigger</b>	On notification from the Chief Veterinary Officer	On notification from the Chief Veterinary Officer	On notification from the Chief Veterinary Officer
	For example: significant outbreak of disease affecting more than 3 separate locations nationally.	For example: Culling of up to 30 million poultry (HPAI) or euthanasia of up to 20 companion (pets) animals (plus possibility of wildlife being affected (Rabies)). For West Nile Virus spread by viable vectors in the UK the slaughter of 20-1000 horses is a possibility.	One confirmed case in non-quarantined area of a companion (pet) animal.

For the latest information on any outbreak please see the DEFRA website:

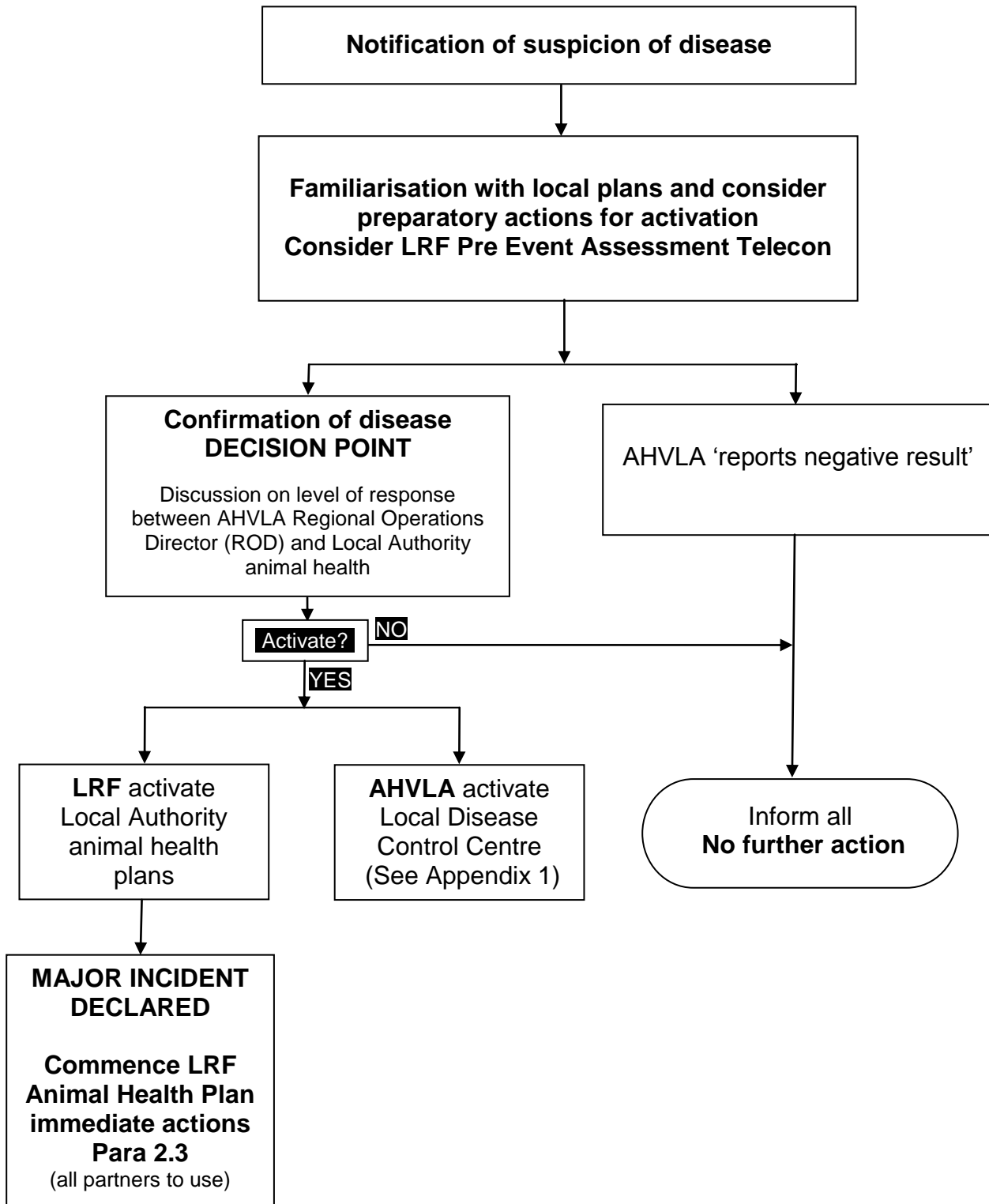
<http://www.defra.gov.uk/animal-diseases/>

## 2.3 AHVLA Response and Communications Following Confirmation of Disease

**Table 3 – Confirmation of disease**

Stage	Notification Method	Level of detail	Example	From	To	For distribution to
<b>Confirmation of disease</b>	Text, email and phone call	Confirmed Disease; Affected Species; Infected Premise (IP) – CPH, Map Ref & Address; Owner – Name & Address; Current Restrictions in place.	“Avian Influenza confirmed in a flock of chicken. IP – Mr J Bloom, Manor Farm, Exeter, Devon 10/001/0001 SY123456. 3Km Protection Zone, 10Km Surveillance Zones established. For details of current restrictions see the DEFRA website.	RRM	Operational Partners	LRF Responders via LRF Secretariat

**2.4 Activation Process**



## 2.5 Immediate actions on plan activation

No.	Primary actions	Responsible
1	Declare Major Incident Convene Tactical Coordinating Group(s) (TCG) according to area. Consider LDCC battle rhythm for timings (see Annex C). <b>In Rabies cases Police will chair TCG.</b>	Local Authority
2	TCG members to identify/appoint/agree LDCC Liaison.	TCG
3	Consider convening Strategic Coordinating Group (SCG). (Police Gold Commander, TCG Chairs, Incident Silver Commander and AHVLA ROD to discuss). PROCEED with next Primary Action if required.	All
4	Convene SCG meeting. Activate LRF Operation Link Attendees to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AHVLA ROD</li> <li>• LRF Cat 1 and 2 responder organisations</li> <li>• Resilience Emergencies Division (South) (RED(S))</li> <li>• South West Water (cleansing and contamination advice)</li> <li>• Consider farming organisations</li> </ul> Consider LDCC battle rhythm for timings (see Annex E)	Police

## 2.6 Response Co-ordination

### Animal Health Veterinary Laboratory Agency (AHVLA)

- Co-ordinates the **Local Disease Control Centre** (operational level)
- Sets and implements the strategy for managing the disease control
- Holds regular update meetings with multi-agency partners
- Updates and links with the Joint Co-ordination Centre (JCC) (tactical level)
- See Appendix 1: AHVLA SW Exotic Disease Outbreak Contingency Plan

### Strategic Co-ordinating Group (SCG) Gold

- Chaired by the Police
- Sets the strategy for dealing with the wider impact of a disease outbreak in the LRF area (not disease control)
- Reports through DCLG Resilience Emergency Division to Cabinet Office Briefing Rooms (COBR) as required

### Tactical Co-ordinating Group (TCG) Silver

- Chaired by local authority unless Rabies outbreak when Police will Chair.
- Implements strategy set by the SCG, if convened
- Sets response strategy in absence of SCG
- Deals with the local tactical requirements of the outbreak
- Gathers & promulgates situation report information.
- Attends SCG and LDCC meetings
- Ensures that Recovery Co-ordinating Group is promptly established.



## 2.7 List of local animal disease outbreak plans (held by each organisation)

Non-zoonotic notifiable animal diseases: Foot and Mouth, Classical Swine fever, Blue Tongue, Newcastle Disease etc. (AH001)		
Organisation	Plan name	Website page link
Cornwall Council	Generic Notifiable Animal Disease Contingency Plan for Cornwall Council	Web link not yet available)
Devon County Council (Covering Torbay & Plymouth)	Various plans, see link	<a href="#">Web link</a>
D&C Police	Contingency Plan Outguard	Secure file, Police only
DEFRA AHVLA	Various plans	<a href="#">Web link</a>

Zoonotic notifiable animal diseases: Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI), West Nile Virus etc. (AH002)		
Organisation	Plan name	Reference
Cornwall Council	Foot and mouth/avian influenza/classical swine fever/African horse sickness Disease Contingency Plans for Cornwall Council	Web link (not yet available)
Devon County Council (Covering Torbay & Plymouth)	Various plans, see link	<a href="#">Web link</a>
D&C Police	Contingency Plan Outguard	Secure file, Police only
DEFRA AHVLA	Various plans	<a href="#">Web link</a>

Zoonotic notifiable animal diseases: Rabies (AH003)		
Organisation	Plan name	Reference
Cornwall Council	Cornwall Council Rabies Contingency Plan	Web link not yet available)
Devon County Council	Rabies plan	<a href="#">Plan link</a>
D&C Police	Contingency Plan Outguard	Secure file
DEFRA AHVLA	Rabies Disease Control Strategy for England and Wales	<a href="#">Web link</a>
Council for the Isles of Scilly	An operational response plan for an outbreak of Rabies on the Isles of Scilly	<a href="#">Web link</a>

## Section 3 - Managing the response

### 3.1 Information and Communication

Timely gathering and transmission of information will ensure a rapid and effective response to changing conditions. Reporting needs to be done in conjunction with LDCC. Appropriate liaison must be established between each management structure to ensure that all relevant information is shared as required.

### 3.2 Media Co-ordination

AHVLA through DEFRA has overall responsibility for the media response at a national level. In addition, an SCG media group may be formed to cover LRF area wide issues which will be co-ordinated by the Police. Key messages and top lines will be disseminated from DEFRA, with additional information from SCG. Media requirements at local or TCG level must be co-ordinated with the SCG media group where established.

### 3.3 Business Continuity

Maintaining the necessary staffing levels from all participating organisations relies on them each having functional Business Continuity plans, and in particular strategies for dealing with loss of staff who may be otherwise engaged with the response to an animal disease outbreak. Responders should be able to maintain the necessary staffing levels for as long as the incident continues which may be for several months/years.

### 3.4 Local Disease Control Centre (LDCC) (refer to Appendix 1 for detailed information)

The location of the LDCC is Exeter AHVLA regional office. See Annex C for meeting battle rhythm.

Partners expected to attend<sup>1</sup> the LDCC would be:

- Local Authority Animal Health
- Police
- Environment Agency
- Health
- SCG and/or TCG Liaison

Stakeholders will also be determined by type of outbreak. However the following should be considered for attending:

- Farm Crisis Network
- RSPCA
- NFU
- Livestock Groups
- Country Land and Business Association
- National Trust
- Foods Standards Agency

The Regional Operations Director (ROD) or suitable deputy (AHVLA) will attend<sup>1</sup> the TCG or SCG as appropriate.

<sup>1</sup> 'Attendance' includes by conference call.

### 3.5 Other Management structures and Groups

Consider establishing the following management structures and Groups:

- Tactical Co-ordinating Group (TCG) (See section 2.4 above)
- Strategic Co-ordinating Group (SCG) (See section 2.4 above)
- Combined Media Cell (with AHVLA)
- Science & Technical Advice Cell (STAC)
- Recovery Co-ordinating Group

### 3.6 Roles and Responsibilities

As per the LRF Combined Agency Emergency Response Protocol (CAERP) but with the addition of the following:

Organisation	Responsibility
AHVLA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sets and implements the strategy for managing the disease control</li> </ul>
Devon & Cornwall Police	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Police Silver Commander to either attend scene of outbreak if single locality or controlled location</li> <li>• Attendance (Chair if Rabies incident) at TCG</li> <li>• Police Liaison Officer located with LDCC</li> <li>• Consider Police Liaison Officer located with Local Authority Animal Health Office</li> <li>• Collate community impact assessment</li> <li>• Providing support to Local Authority Animal Health in the enforcement of restrictions in Protection and Surveillance Zones.</li> <li>• General co-ordination of emergencies support, particularly in pursuing legal entry to premises.</li> <li>• Preventing breaches of the peace and managing disturbances.</li> <li>• Preventing public access to infected premises and closed rights of way/land.</li> <li>• Providing support to Local Authority Animal Health in stopping and checking vehicles transporting animals.</li> <li>• Attendance of a representative of appropriate authority and expertise at the Local Disease Control Centre.</li> <li>• Supporting multi-agency structures at the local level through the Local Resilience Forum and Recovery Co-ordinating Group.</li> </ul>
Local Authority Animal Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enforcing restrictions and movement controls</li> <li>• Working with AHVLA, including identifying livestock holdings as well as tracing and issuing movement licences</li> <li>• Ensuring Cleansing and Disinfection conditions are complied with</li> <li>• Animal Movement Enforcement System data</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>inputting</li> <li>• Communication with the farming community</li> </ul>
Public Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider and issue Public Health advice</li> <li>• PHE to lead in the coordination of outbreaks</li> <li>• Jointly consider the establishment of Scientific Technical Advice Cell (STAC) if required, in line with the LRF STAC plan.</li> </ul>
RSPCA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AH001 - Non-zoonotic notifiable animal diseases: Surveillance &amp; local assistance as required. Dedicated foot &amp; mouth disease contact number for farmers &amp; members of public.</li> <li>• AH002 - Zoonotic notifiable animal diseases: Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI), West Nile Virus. Assist AHVLA with collection &amp; transport of animal carcasses for analysis.</li> <li>• AH003 – Zoonotic notifiable animal diseases: Rabies. As per Devon County Council Contingency Plan, will assist in the detention of strays, specifically the staffing of detention pounds.</li> </ul>
National Farmers Union; Farm Crisis Network; Country Land and Business Association; National Trust; Livestock Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supply and collate information to/from members.</li> </ul>
Environment Agency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Environment Agency will ensure that appropriate advice and guidance is given to all parties where there may be an impact on the receiving environment, whether it is air, land ground or surface waters.</li> </ul>
South West Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advising on water catchment contamination and logistics for water supply to cleanse and disinfect at infected premises.</li> <li>• Supplying water bowsers.</li> <li>• Identify Critical National Infrastructure (CNI) in exclusion Zones in order to maintain water supplies.</li> </ul>

**Strategic Co-ordinating Group Agenda**

**Strategic Co-ordinating Group Agenda for an Animal Disease Outbreak  
(can also be used for TCG meetings)**

1. Introductions/attendees
2. Membership, authority and other agencies that may be required
3. Immediate and urgent actions; delegation of tasks
4. Review and Agree Minutes of Previous Meeting (to include Matters arising).
5. Command Structure
  - a. **SCG**: Sets the strategy for dealing with the wider impact of a disease outbreak in the LRF area (not disease control)
  - b. **LDCC**: Sets and implements the strategy for managing the disease control
  - c. **TCG**: Implements strategy set by the SCG; deals with local requirements
6. Outline of what has happened
7. Progress reports (what is known/not known; what information is required) (To include the number of cases / incidents, whether suspected or confirmed, the disease control measures in place and proposed).
  - a. National Information Picture (from LDCC, if relevant)
  - b. Local/ Regional Information Picture
    - i. LDCC brief
    - ii. Multi-agency Silver(s) briefs
    - iii. SCG partners
  - c. Central Government liaison via RED(S)
    - i. Information requested from Central Government
    - ii. Information required by Central Government
8. Community Impact Assessment.- Including community welfare.
9. Set or adjust strategy
10. Communication and media strategies
11. Legal issues
12. Finance and logistics/resourcing
13. Mutual aid arrangements and agreements
14. Exit strategy – consider establishing Recovery Co-ordinating Group
15. Any other business
16. Time of next meeting and confirm FOIA grading

**PROTOCOL FOR JOINT PATROLS – Police/Local Authority**

Restriction of movement of animals or birds is put in place by DEFRA – (Animal Health Veterinary Laboratories Agency) and enforced by the Local councils to assist in the containment of infectious animal diseases. Patrols are needed to further reduce the number of animals being moved illegally especially in the immediate period after the restrictions have been put in place. Joint patrols are needed if sufficient resources are available.

The need for Joint patrols would generally be agreed at a Tactical Co-ordinating Group or Local Disease Control Centre meeting or direct from Trading Standards where a Senior Council Officer should contact Police Force Incident Manager to request police to join council officers carrying out these patrols. The patrols would cover the area of the movement order but each local authority would need to request patrols to cover their own area. Patrols would need to take place as soon as the movement orders are put in place and would need to be led by intelligence.

The Animal Health act 1981 section 60 can be used to enforce the restrictions

- Where a person is seen, or found committing, or is reasonably suspected of being engaged in committing an offence against this Act, a Constable may, without warrant, stop and detain him.
- If that person's name and address are not known to the Constable, and he fails to give them to the Constable's satisfaction, the Constable may, without warrant, apprehend him.
- The Constable may, whether so stopping or detaining or apprehending the person or not:-
  - a. stop, detain and examine any animal, vehicle, boat or thing to which the offence or suspected offence is related;

And,

- b. Require it to be forthwith taken back to or into any place or district from which or out of which it was unlawfully removed and execute and enforce the requisition.
- If a person obstructs or impedes or assists in obstructing or impeding an Inspector or other officer in the execution;
    - a. of this Act, or,
    - b. of an order of the Minister, or,
    - c. of a regulation of a local authority,

The Officer may without warrant apprehend the offender.

- A Constable shall forthwith make a report in writing of every case in which he stops any person, animal, vehicle, boat or thing under this section and of his proceedings in consequence.

It should be noted that the general arrest conditions under Police and Criminal Evidence Act also apply.

**LDCC BATTLE RHYTHM**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Level</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Partner Liaison Meetings</b>
0800 – 0830	Strategic	Daily Stock take	
	Operational	Daily Management & Communications Meeting	
0830 – 0900	Tactical	NDCC Birdtable	
	Operational	LDCC Birdtable	Partners required
0900 – 0930	Tactical	Daily Communications Meeting	
1000 – 1100	Strategic	NSC (THRC)	
1130 – 1200	Strategic	Defra Media Briefing	
	Operational	Media Briefing	
1200 – 1230	Tactical	NDCC Birdtable	
	Operational	LDCC Birdtable	Partners required
1400 – 1430	Tactical / Operational	LDCC Management Teleconference	
1500 – 1600	Strategic	NSC (THRC)	
1800 – 1830	Tactical	NDCC Birdtable	
	Operational	LDCC Birdtable	Partners required
Ad-hoc	Strategic	Animal Disease Policy Group	
	Tactical	National Experts Group	

Where an outbreak is small and events are slow moving a more condensed battle rhythm will be more appropriate, with a later start and earlier finishing time.

NDCC National Disease Control Centre

LDCC Local Disease Control Centre

NSC (THRC) National Security Council (Threats, Hazards, Resilience & Contingencies)