



Animal &  
Plant Health  
Agency

Asiantaeth  
Iechyd Anifeiliaid  
a Phlanhigion

## APHA Briefing Note 02/16

### Veterinary Surveillance Services Available in Wales

#### Purpose:

1. To inform Official Veterinarians about veterinary surveillance services available in Wales.
2. To raise Official Veterinarians' awareness of the free carcass collection arrangements in Wales.

#### Background

3. A new model for veterinary scanning surveillance has been introduced, to improve both access to, and the geographical and species coverage of disease surveillance across England and Wales.
4. The scanning surveillance network continues to be underpinned by a quality assured diagnostic capability, including post-mortem examinations (PMEs), undertaken by both APHA and non-APHA PME providers. This remains an important part of identifying new threats within an environment of varied endemic diseases.
5. APHA has improved access to such facilities in Wales through a free APHA-funded carcass transport service which will operate in many regions for two years, whilst local diagnostic capability and capacity is built-up.
6. The new model broadens the approach to scanning surveillance by moving away from relying primarily on post-mortem examinations undertaken in government facilities to detect threats. Emphasis is now placed on post-mortem examinations undertaken within the livestock farming industry and academia, as well as

gathering animal health information and intelligence from other sources. This enables a more comprehensive threat picture to be drawn than was previously the case.

7. A dedicated Surveillance Intelligence Unit has been created within APHA to support data capture, exploration, collation, analysis, reporting and use of surveillance findings, to trigger risk mitigation measures or further research. As well as being a centre of expertise, part of the SIU's role will be to engage with the alternative sources of information on animal disease to improve surveillance coverage.
8. In Wales, veterinary surveillance is now undertaken by both APHA working from the Veterinary Investigation Centres (VIC) in Carmarthen and Shrewsbury, and the Wales Veterinary Science Centre (WVSC) in Aberystwyth, operated by Iechyd Da in partnership with Aberystwyth University.
9. For two years, a free carcass collection service will be available to some farms in Wales for livestock PMEs that are of surveillance value.
10. To use the service, first check the appropriate post-mortem centre for your client, by visiting the APHA post mortem examination postcode finder at:  
<http://ahvla.defra.gov.uk/postcode/pme.asp>.
11. You should then contact the appropriate post-mortem centre and speak to the Duty Vet. If submission of the carcass for a surveillance PME is agreed, APHA or Iechyd Da will inform the transport contractor, who will then liaise with the farmer. A map of Wales showing WVSC, APHA Carmarthen, APHA Shrewsbury, and details of carcass transport arrangements is attached at Annex A.
12. If you have any queries about the new service, please contact the Wales Veterinary Science Centre on 01970 612374 or email at: [enquiries@wvsc.wales](mailto:enquiries@wvsc.wales).

#### **For further information**

13. Visit the APHA Vet Gateway - <http://ahvla.defra.gov.uk/vet-gateway/index.htm>
14. Visit the Welsh Veterinary Science Centre - <http://www.wvsc.wales/>

**Issued:** 17 February 2016

# Annex A: Post mortem examination and carcase collection in Wales

