

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

**Consultation on a new independent
body for animal health: *A modern
governance and funding structure for
tackling animal diseases***

Response Form

March 2009

How to respond

This response form should be read in conjunction with the main consultation document “A new independent body for animal health in England: *A modern governance and funding structure for tackling animal diseases.*”

1. All the questions contained in the main document are repeated below, along with the paragraph numbers to which they relate.
2. We would welcome your comments on any or all of the questions. There is also a box for you to add any other comments.
3. If you are using the response form electronically, the answer boxes will expand as you add text. If you are using a paper version, you can continue your answers on a separate sheet. Please mark the question to which you are responding on any supplementary sheets you use.
4. Please send your completed form to:

**Mike Weavers
Defra Responsibility & Cost Sharing Programme
Area 5E Millbank
c/o Nobel House
17 Smith Square
London SW1P 3JR**

Or e-mail an electronic version to:

rcsharing@defra.gsi.gov.uk

5. The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform has produced six consultation criteria. These are available at <http://bre.berr.gov.uk/regulation/consultation/code/criteria.asp>
6. Please ensure your response reaches us by 30 June 2009.

Please provide the following information, to help us deal with your response:

- Your name:

- Your organisation (if applicable):

- Your postal address:

- Your e-mail address

- Would you like your response kept confidential?

Yes

No

Question 1

Views are invited on the assumptions and estimates in the Impact Assessment.

Question 2

Comments are invited on the proposals for a new body, including its scope, governance and working arrangements.

Question 3

Will the proposed arrangements ensure that our animal welfare objectives continue to be taken into account when tackling disease? If not, what further mechanisms should be included?

Question 4

Views are invited on whether the new body should be set up as a Non-Ministerial Department (NMD) or Non-Departmental Public Body (NDPB).

Question 5

Views are invited on the proposed delivery arrangements to be established when the new body is set up. Are there specific changes to the current organisational structures that would improve delivery of animal health policies for the businesses affected?

Question 6

Views are sought on ways in which the Animal Health regulatory framework could be further simplified in order to reduce policy and administrative costs and improve customers' / stakeholders' experience of its operation in practice.

Question 7

Views are invited on the proposed funding framework including:

a) The activities to be initially co-funded between government and revenue payers.

b) proposals for distribution of costs between sectors according to the gross sector output or on alternative ways of distributing costs.

c) proposals for the levy-funded share of the costs to be co-funded or alternative suggestions and their justification.

d) The use of an insurance requirement as a basis for the industry contribution to the costs of exotic disease outbreaks.

Question 8

Views are invited on these proposals for the levy mechanism and in particular on:

a) The species to be covered initially (and whether horses should be included).

b) Whether minimum thresholds for payment should be set and, if so, on what basis.

c) whether there should be one rate for all cattle or different rates for beef and dairy based on the value of the gross output of each sector.

d) How the impact on the viability of the industry of a particular levy could be assessed and taken into account in setting the levy.

Question 9

Views are invited on the proposal for an animal health strategy board, its role and composition.