

British Horse Council Summer meeting - Friday 26 June

Welsh Government

Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer for Wales - Written Update

SPS Agreement

Welsh Government supports the UK Government's aims of securing a new UK-EU SPS agreement. Easing trade between the UK and EU and also between GB and NI are key outcomes of any agreement. The agreement would remove the need for Export Health Certificates and eliminate routine border documentation and physical checks for businesses who export to and import from the EU, making supply chains more resilient.

We are engaging closely with UK Government (UKG), Scottish Government (SG), the Food Standards Agency (FSA) and the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) as we collectively work towards SPS Agreement implementation.

Our collective priority is to maintain and enhance our high standards and ambitions for animal health and welfare and biosecurity

Alignment with EU SPS rules will apply to all producers, not just traders with the EU. It will also apply to animal keepers and operators of some activities involving animals. There will be significant new processes and responsibilities across the rural and agricultural sector, including new traceability requirements for equines.

The Welsh Government is committed to ensuring that businesses and stakeholders in Wales are fully prepared for day one requirements. We have consistently highlighted to UKG the need for tailored transitional arrangements and a clear understanding of the impacts on Welsh businesses and producers, particularly where changes are required to meet EU regulatory standards.

Equine Influenza

Equine influenza is not a notifiable animal disease in Great Britain (GB) and is therefore managed by individual keepers and industry. There is no recognised threat to public health.

The increase in outbreaks has drawn some media attention in Wales and raised public concern. In response, we have published a webpage on Equine Influenza, providing guidance and links to further resources. The webpage can be found here: [Equine influenza | GOV.WALES](#). An article will also be published in the Welsh Government's summer edition of its rural newsletter, *Gwlad*, to raise awareness and provide information.