

Animal Health and Welfare Board for England

The Animal Health and Welfare Board for England (AHWBE) is responsible for strategic animal health and welfare policy, and oversight of implementation in relation to England, taking account of public health considerations.

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Role of the group

The Animal Health and Welfare Board for England (AHWBE) is the principal source of departmental advice to Defra ministers on all strategic health and welfare matters relating to all kept animals in England.

The Board's role is to set the strategic policy framework, using it as the basis for day-to-day advice to ministers and day-to-day operational actions.

The board has strategic oversight of Defra policy in England in relation to:

- animal health
- animal welfare
- those public health implications of animal diseases that fall within Defra's remit

- transmission of disease to humans via animals
- all kept animals (including companion animals and aquaculture)

The health of circus and zoo animals falls within scope in relation to disease prevention matters only. Advice on the welfare of circus and zoo animals will be covered by officials in Defra.

Responsibilities

The board's responsibilities include:

- developing and implementing animal health and welfare policy and ensuring value for money
- assessing of the risk of threats from animal disease and what the surveillance and research priorities should be
- monitoring the regulatory framework
- approving the operational plans of the Animal and Plant Health Agency and other bodies
- reviewing contingency plans for dealing with new disease outbreaks

For more details about the governance and remit of the AHWBE, see the [terms of reference](#). This also includes details of the sub-groups on finance and strategy.

Membership

AHWBE brings together independent people with relevant knowledge and skills, and senior government officials:

Chairman

Michael Seals MBE, Chairman of the National Fallen Stock Company

Non-executive members

- Yvonne Ball, Barrister and member of the CLA national policy board
- Mike Clark, Poultry Director of Minster Veterinary Practice
- Richard Davis, Farmer Director of First Milk Ltd
- Claire Horton, Chief Executive of Battersea Dogs & Cats Home
- Stewart Houston, Chairman of British Pig Executive (BPEX)
- Tim Morris, science and welfare advisor
- Stuart Roberts, Agriculture and Livestock Director at Anglo Beef Processors

Each non-executive member of the Animal Health and Welfare Board for England is

responsible for engagement and communication with a portfolio of internal and external stakeholders. These are listed in the current [annual report](#).

The non-executive board members have published a [register of interests](#).

Executive members

- Nigel Gibbens, Chief Veterinary Officer
- Chris Hadkiss, Chief Executive of the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA)
- Alick Simmons, Deputy Chief Veterinary Officer

Recommendations to Defra ministers

The AHWBE has made a number of [recommendations on strategic policy](#) affecting the health and welfare of kept animals in England, which Defra ministers have accepted.

Defra ministers expect to accept the advice agreed by the board. If, in exceptional circumstances, Defra ministers decide not to accept the board's advice, they make public the reasons for taking a different view.

Publications

- [AHWBE annual report, 2013 to 2014](#)
- [AHWBE forward work plan, 2012](#)
- [AHWBE guiding principles](#)
- [AHWBE code of practice](#)
- [Review and evaluation: Animal Health and Welfare Board for England - Interim Report](#)
- [Review and evaluation: Animal Health and Welfare Board for England - Final Report](#) 
- You can access all our publications in [this document collection](#).

Minutes of meetings

We publish notes of our meetings as follows.

- [Note of AHWBE meeting on 20 January 2015](#) (PDF, 41.1KB, 5 pages)
- [Note of AHWBE meeting on 9 December 2014](#) (PDF, 48.6KB)
- [Note of AHWBE meeting on 21 October 2014](#) (PDF, 47.3KB)
- [Note of AHWBE meeting on 9 September 2014](#) (PDF, 52.3KB)
- [Note of AHWBE meeting on 29 July 2014](#) (PDF, 33.2KB)
- [Note of AHWBE meeting on 10 June 2014](#) (PDF, 43.9KB)
- [Note of AHWBE meeting on 22 April 2014](#) (PDF, 29.5KB, 4 pages)

- [Note of AHWBE meeting on 20 March 2014](#) (PDF, 16.4KB, 2 pages)
- [Note of AHWBE meeting on 20 January 2014](#) (PDF, 54.4KB, 2 pages)

Earlier minutes are available [on the National Archives website](#) 

Secretariat

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Policies

[Protecting animal health and preventing disease, including in trade](#)

[Protecting animal welfare](#)

[Reducing bovine tuberculosis \(bovine TB\)](#)

Contact details

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