

Eradication: Final report for Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies 2018

For each approved annual or multi-annual programme Member States shall submit to the Commission by the 30 April each year an annual detailed technical and financial report covering the previous year. That report shall include the results achieved and a detailed account of eligible costs incurred (Art 14 of Regulation (EU) No 652/2014).

This form is for information only, no submission possible.

ID: 20190417-5J4KR29I

Country code: UK

Reporting period

From: 2014

To: 2018

Year of implementation: 2018

1. Technical implementation of the programme

1.1 Description and evaluation of the evolution of the epidemiological situation, the technical implementation of the activities foreseen under the programme and the cost-effectiveness of the programme.

1. BSE in cattle

Thanks to strict implementation of the feed ban, the UK is making good progress towards the eradication of BSE.

Following a peak of over 37,000 clinical cases in 1992, the number of new cases now detected by active and passive surveillance continues to decline year on year, with only 1 case confirmed in the UK in 2014, 2 cases in 2015, 0 cases in 2016, 0 cases in 2017, 1 case in 2018 and no cases so far in 2019.

We remain vigilant to the threat posed by BSE and the following key controls, that protect public and animal health, will remain in force:

1. The ban on feeding animal animal protein to farmed animals, which prevents the spread of BSE to animals through feed;
2. Removing Specified Risk Material (SRM) - the most risky parts of animals - at slaughter to protect consumers from the risk from food;
3. Surveillance to monitor the the level of BSE over time and thereby check on the continued effectiveness of BSE controls.

In May 2008, the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) classified the UK as a controlled risk country in regard to BSE, which means UK regulatory controls are effective and that UK fresh beef and beef products can be safely traded. In 2017 the OIE confirmed that Northern Ireland had achieved BSE negligible risk status as a zone of the UK. The UK as a whole is expected to achieve BSE negligible risk status in 2025. Prevalence of infection is significantly higher in the residual pre-August 1996 cattle population, which are permanently excluded from the food and feed chain, including export.

In the UK measures following confirmation of BSE in a bovine animal include veterinary enquiry and investigation, the culling of progeny born within 2 years prior to, or after clinical onset of the disease and the identification and culling of cohorts born on or after 1 August 1996 of BSE positive animals born on or after 1 August 1995 which are sampled and tested. The remains of culled offspring and cohorts are completely destroyed.

The UK continues to implement BSE surveillance as required by EU law. With falling numbers of BSE cases across the EU, the requirement to carry out TSE testing on healthy slaughtered cattle was relaxed on 1 March 2013 and now only 'risk cattle' such as fallen stock aged over 48 months, where BSE is most likely to be detected, are regularly tested.

- Fallen stock cattle (i.e. those which die or are killed other than for human consumption);
- Emergency slaughtered cattle;
- Cattle showing abnormalities at ante-mortem inspection

2. Scrapie in sheep and goats

Following a peak of 597 classical scrapie cases in sheep in 1997, the number of new UK cases detected by active and passive surveillance has declined to 3 in 2013, 0 in 2014, 2 in 2015, 0 in 2016, 2017, 2018 and 0 so far in 2019.

The number of GB cases of classical scrapie detected through passive surveillance in goats was 2 in 2013, 2 in 2014, 4 in 2015, 2 in 2016, 0 in 2017, 0 in 2018 and 0 so far in 2019. The number of cases of classical scrapie in goats through monitoring of 2 infected goat herds increased from 15 in 2013 to 23 in 2014 and 21 in 2015, with 1 in 2016, 4 in 2017 and 0 in 2018 and 0 so far in 2019. The reduction in case numbers since 2015 is due to the culling in 2016 of 1 of the 2 infected goat herds.

The number of UK cases of atypical scrapie detected through passive and active surveillance in sheep was 17 in 2013, 11 in 2014, 15 in 2015, 13 in 2016, 12 in 2017, 17 in 2018 and 2 so far in 2019. No atypical scrapie has yet been detected in goats in the UK

The UK continues to implement passive and active surveillance of sheep and goats for TSEs as required by EU law, including the annual testing of the following under the active surveillance programme:

- 10,000 healthy sheep aged over 18 months slaughtered for human consumption;
- 10,000 fallen stock sheep (i.e. those which die or are killed other than for human consumption) aged over 18 months;
- 500 fallen stock goats aged over 18 months.

In GB, the default control option following confirmation of classical scrapie on a sheep or goat holding is Option 3 (monitoring/surveillance with no killing or destruction of animals). When additional classical scrapie cases are detected in a holding where option 3 is being applied, the relevance of the reasons and criteria founding the decision to apply Option 3 to this holding could be reassessed. If it is concluded that applying Option 3 does not ensure a proper control of the outbreak, we could consider switching the management of this holding from Option 3 to either Option 1 or Option 2, as laid down in point 2.2.2(d), Chapter B, Annex VII of the EU TSE Regulation. In NI, the default control option is Option 2 although in certain circumstances, Option 1 may be exercised.

1.2 Details on the level of achievement of the targets set in the approved programme and technical difficulties.

The UK has achieved all of the targets set in the approved programme.

For the sheep surveys, the UK continues to utilise the derogation in point 2(c), Part II, Chapter A, Annex III of Regulation (EC) No. 999/2001 of the European Parliament and the Council (as amended), testing at least 5,000 sheep aged over 18 months slaughtered for human consumption and a maximum of 15,000 fallen sheep aged over 18 months.

1.3 Epidemiological maps for infection and other relevant data on the disease/activities (information on serotypes involved,...) (Please attach files of data using the PDF attachment feature) Use the textbox below to provide clarifications for the maps you attach, if needed.

None

2. Tables for TSE monitoring outcome of the year

VERY IMPORTANT: Please fill out the following tables with figures corresponding to measures performed during the implementing period (1/1 to 31/12).

NB: the Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 is thereafter quoted as the TSE Regulation.

Table A

	Total positive cases detected during the implementing period		
	Classical cases	Atypical cases	Unknown
TSE	0	0	0
Scrapie (ovine animals)	0	17	0
Scrapie (caprine animals)	0	0	0

Table B

RAPID TESTS ON BOVINE ANIMALS		
	Age limit applied (in months)	Number of tests cases
Risk bovine animals from MSs listed in Annex to Decision 2009/719/EC	48	150,452
Risk bovine animals from MSs NOT listed in Annex to Decision 2009/719/EC	24	18
Healthy slaughtered bovine animals from MSs listed in Annex to Decision 2009/719/EC	0	0
Healthy slaughtered bovine animals from MSs NOT listed in Annex to Decision 2009/719/EC	30	23
Suspect animals and confirmatory tests		1
Total		150,494

Table C

Population of ewes and ewe lambs put to the ram in the Member State

1600000

RAPID TESTS ON OVINE ANIMALS	
	Number of tests
Healthy slaughtered ovine animals	5,591
Dead ovine animals	15,884
In the context of measures of control/eradication on holdings affected by TSE as described in Annexes III and VII of the TSE regulation	
Ovine animals from holdings affected by classical scrapie	0
Ovine animals from holdings affected by atypical scrapie	501
Ovine animals from holdings affected by BSE	0
Suspect animals	1
Total number of tests	21,977

Table D

Population of goats which have already kidded and goats mated in the Member State

85000

RAPID TESTS ON CAPRINE ANIMALS	
	Number of tests
Healthy slaughtered caprine animals	0
Dead caprine animals	503
In the context of measures of control/eradication on holdings affected by TSE as described in Annexes III and VII of the TSE regulation	
Caprine animals from holdings affected by classical scrapie	86
Caprine animals from holdings affected by atypical scrapie	0
Caprine animals from holdings affected by BSE	0
Suspect animals	0
Total number of tests	589

Table E

Confirmatory and discriminatory tests	
	Number of tests
Confirmatory tests other than rapid tests on bovine animals	3
Confirmatory tests on ovine and caprine animals	17
Discriminatory tests on bovine animals	3
Discriminatory tests on ovine and caprine animals	17
Total number of confirmatory tests	20
Total number of discriminatory tests	20

Table F

Genotyping tests	
	Number of tests
Positive TSE case	17
Randomly selected ovine animals	0
Animals in scrapie infected flocks	0
Breeding programme - ewes	0
Breeding programme - rams	0
Total of number of tests	17

Table G

COMPENSATION FOR ANIMALS In the context of suspicion, control and eradication of TSEs	
Animals culled and destroyed	Number of animals compensated
Bovine animals	4
Ovine animals	2
Caprine animals	0
Animals slaughtered	Number of animals compensated
Ovine animals	0
Caprine animals	0
Total Bovine	4
Total Ovine + Caprine	2

COMMENT / ADDITIONAL CLARIFICATION

N/A