



Animal &  
Plant Health  
Agency

# United Kingdom: report on the implementation of the bovine tuberculosis eradication programme in 2016

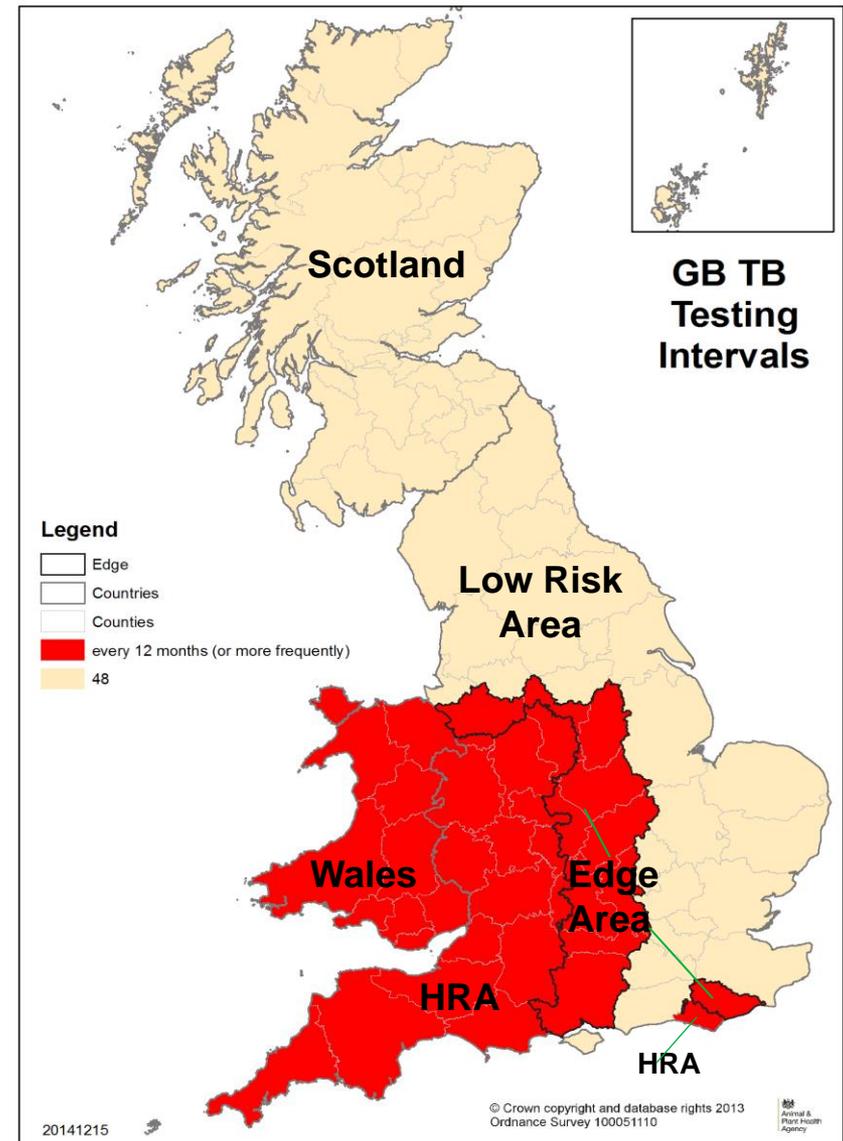
SCoPAFF

Brussels

18-19 September 2017

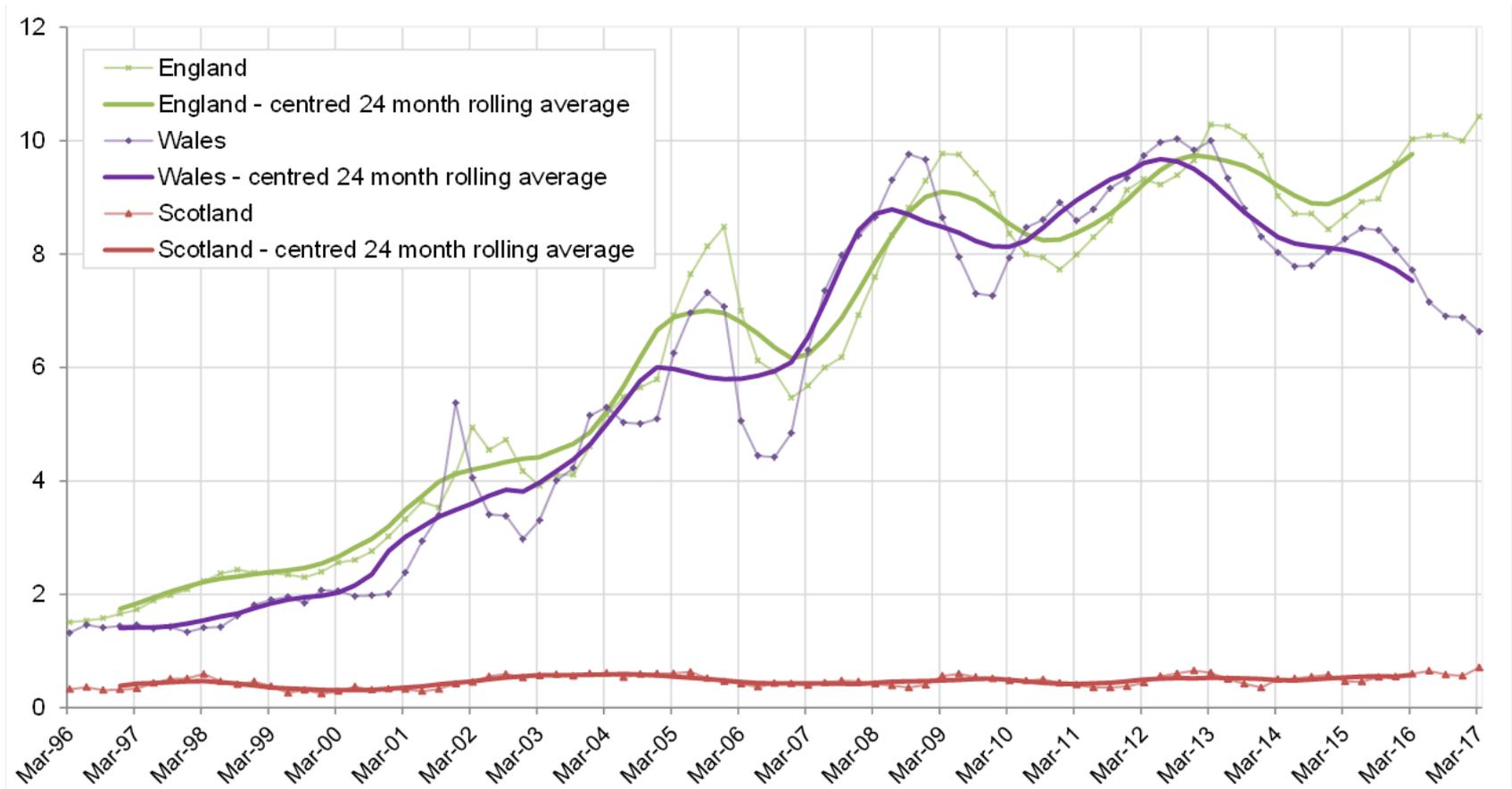
# TB surveillance and control zones in GB

- Scotland: OTF since Oct 2009
- Low Risk Area of England (LRA):
  - 21,000 cattle holdings
  - 4-yearly default herd testing interval, but ~10% of herds tested every year
  - Very low and stable incidence
- Edge Area of England:
  - 7,200 cattle holdings
  - Annual or 6-monthly herd testing
  - Intermediate (but rising) incidence
- High Risk Area of England (HRA):
  - 23,100 cattle holdings
  - Annual herd testing
  - High, stable incidence & prevalence
- Wales:
  - 11,600 holdings (annual testing)
  - Areas of high, intermediate and low incidence (declining slowly overall)

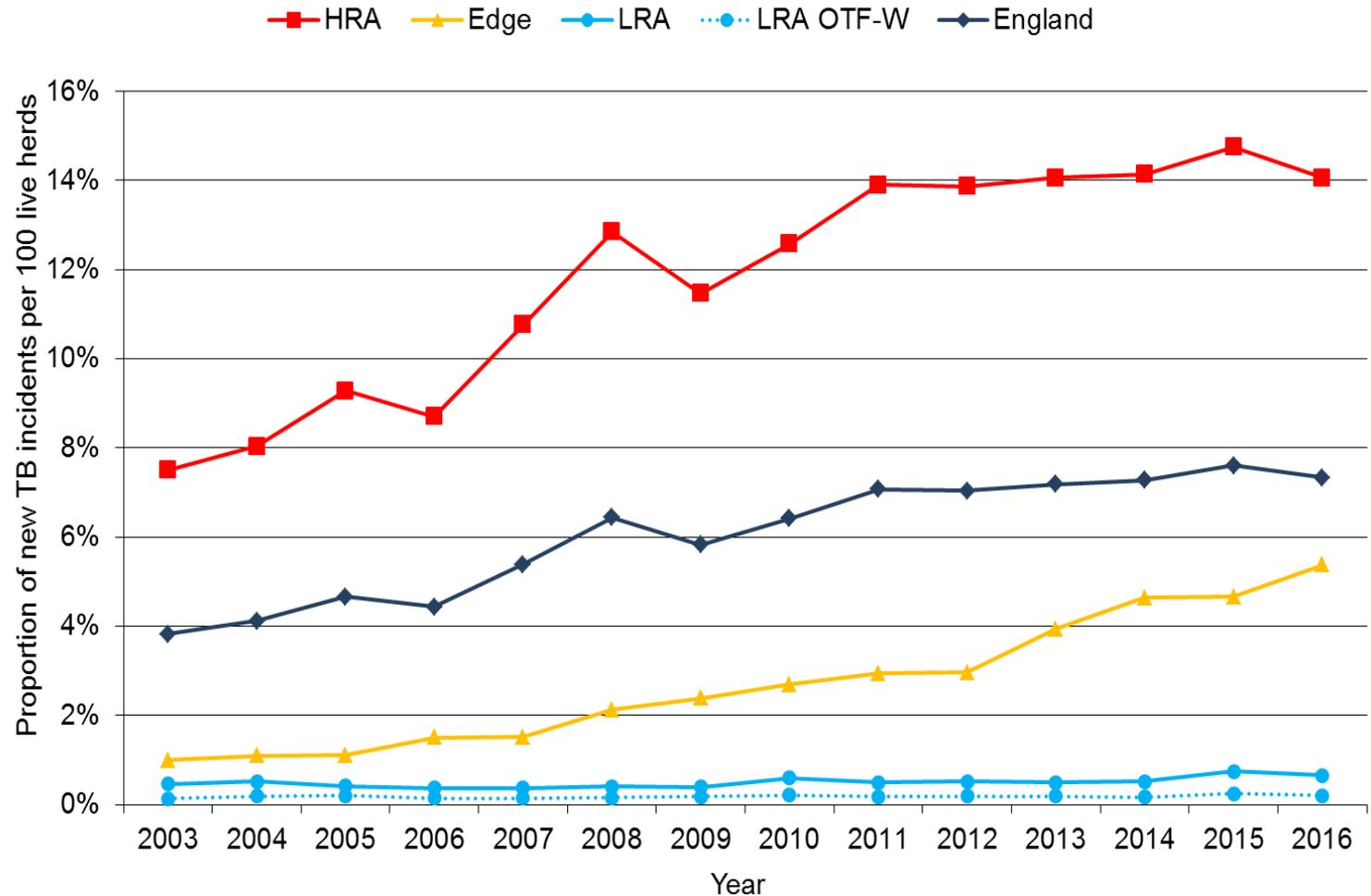




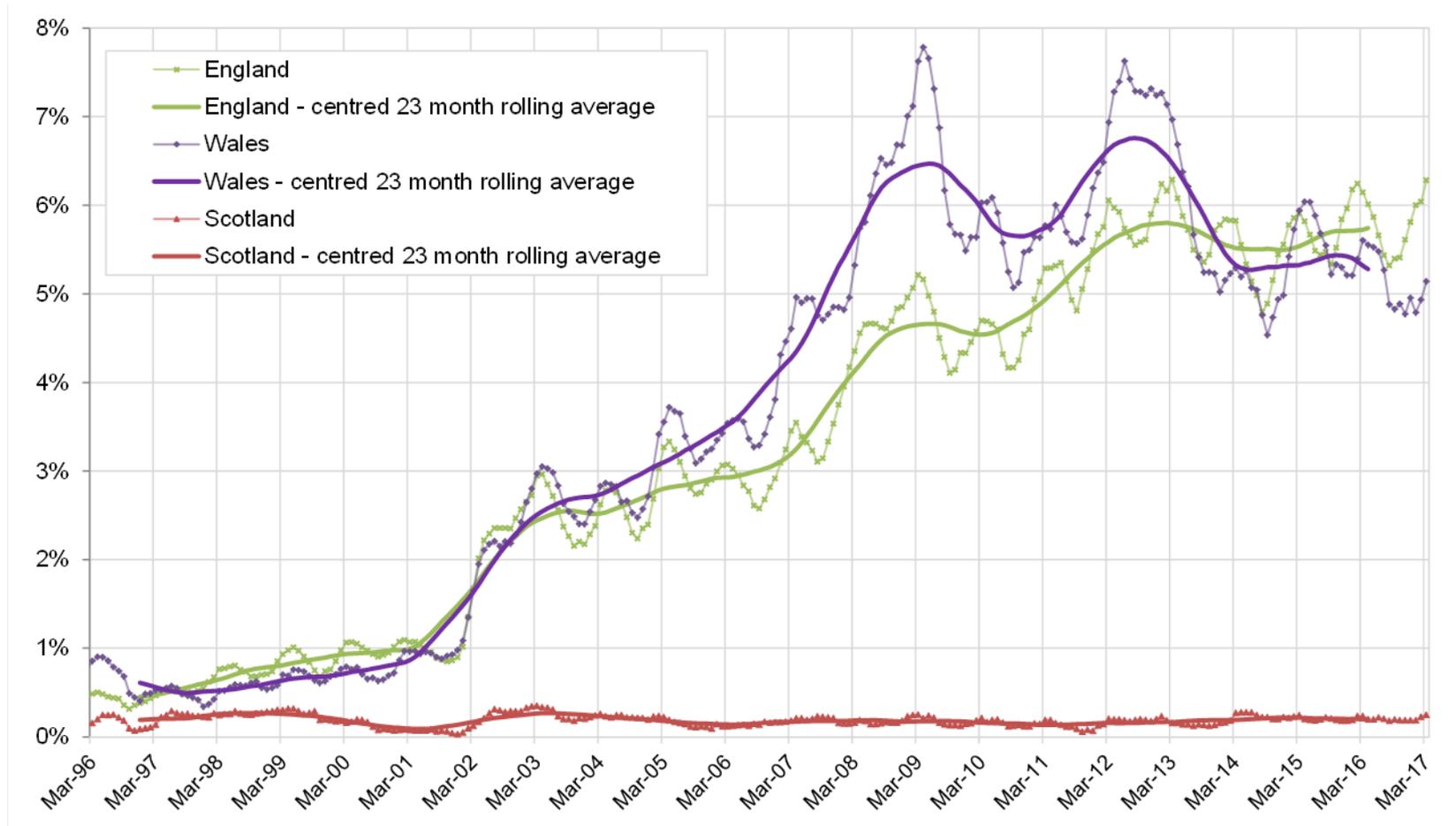
# Herd incidence rate by country of GB: (total new positive herds per 100 herd-years at risk)



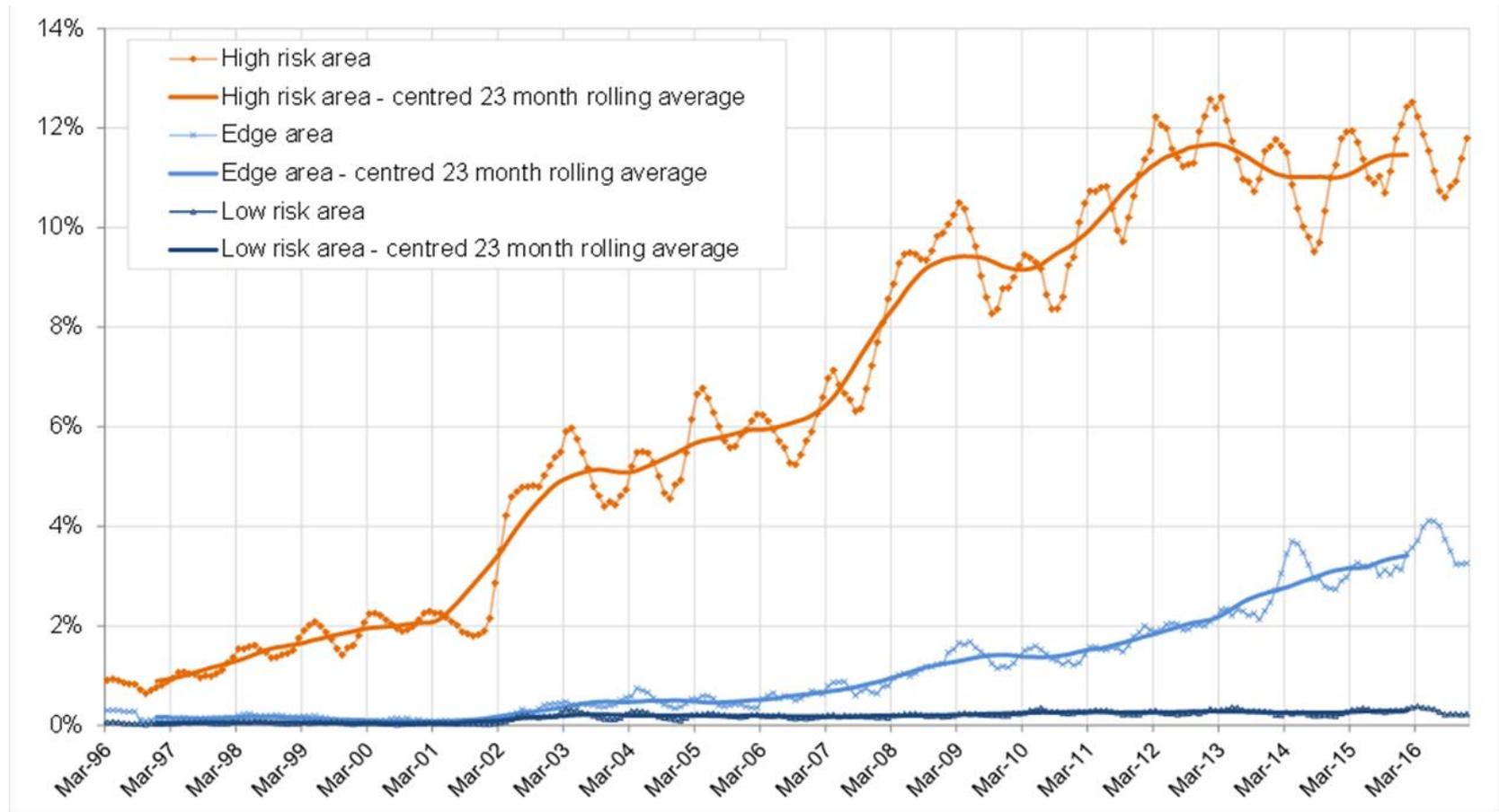
# Crude herd incidence in England, by risk area: new positive herds per 100 active herds



# Herd prevalence by country of GB: percentage of herds under movement restriction (OTF status suspended or withdrawn) at the end of the month

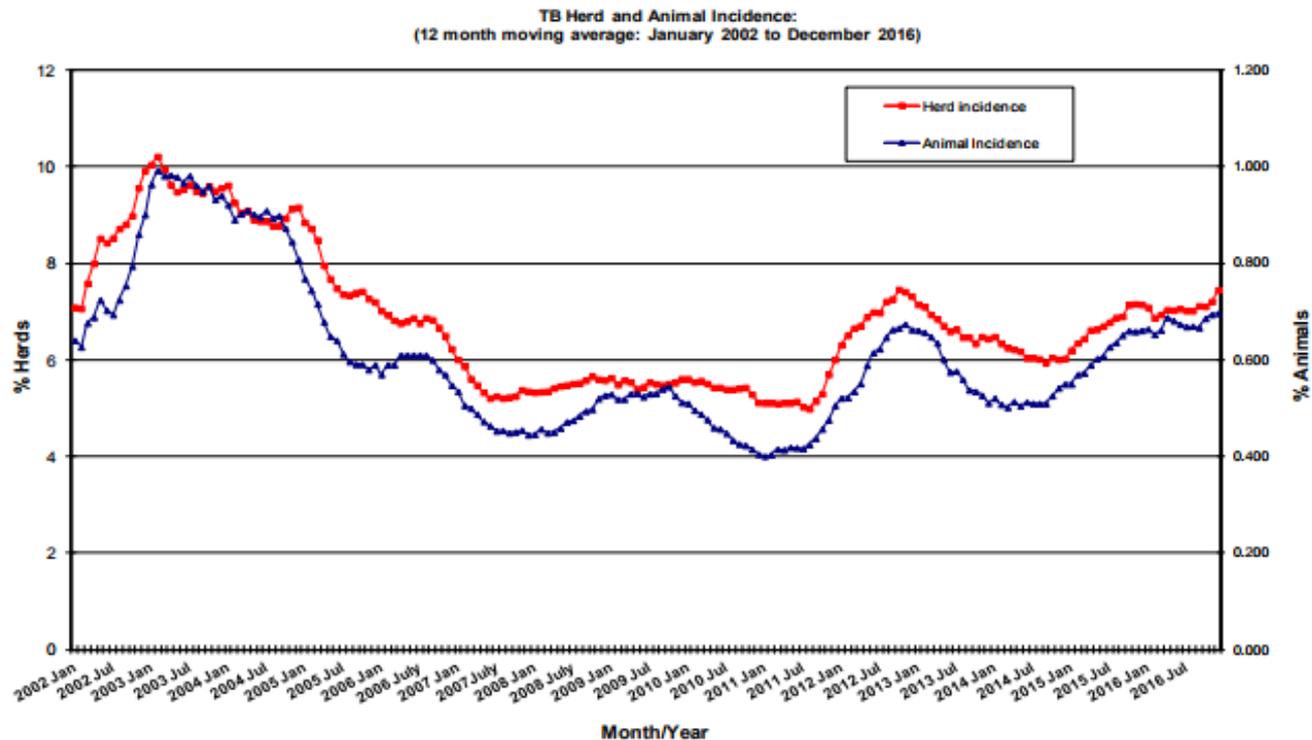


# Herd prevalence in England, by risk area: percentage of herds under movement restriction (OTF status suspended or withdrawn) at the end of the month

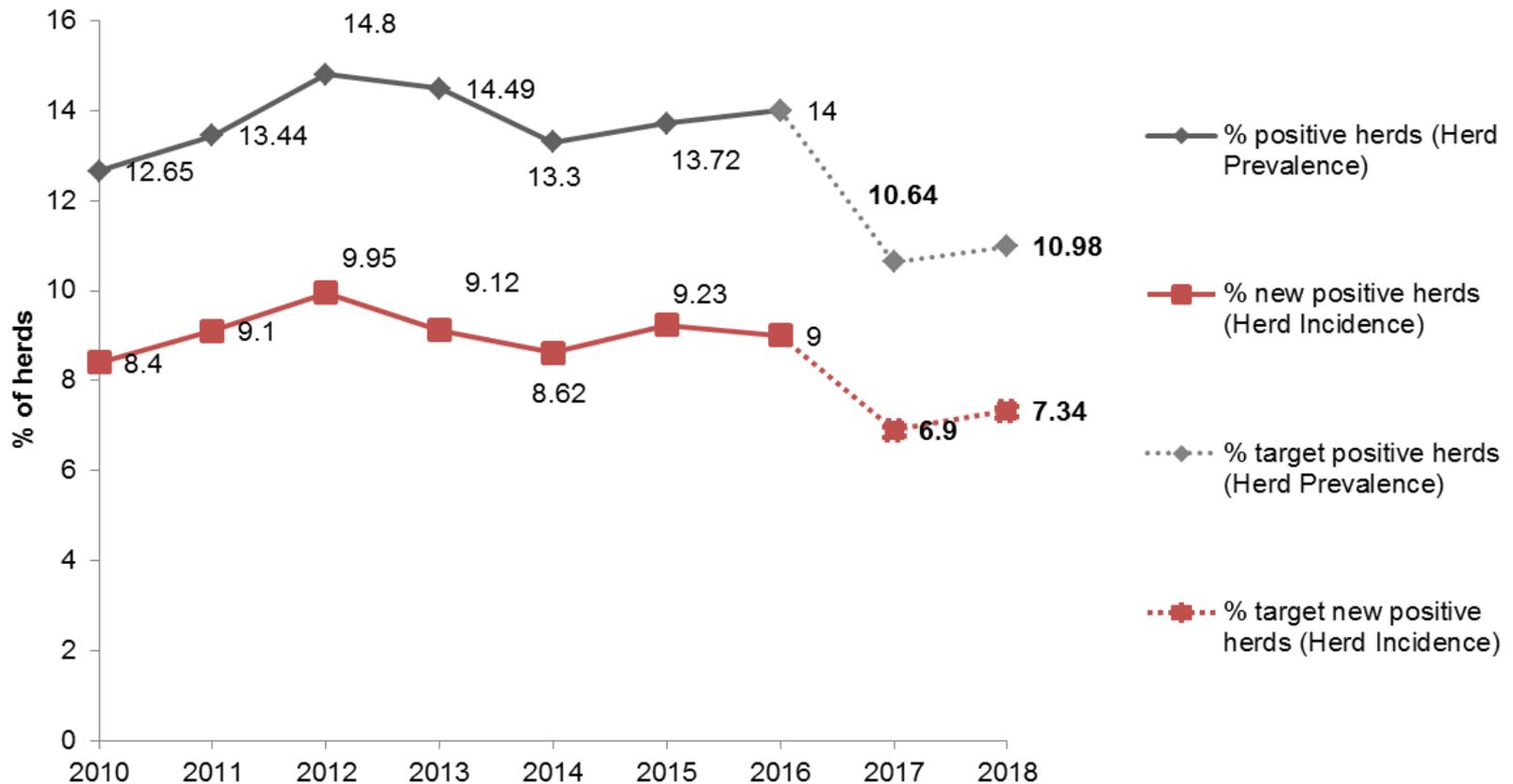


# Northern Ireland: herd incidence & prevalence

	December 2016	December 2015
Herd incidence	7.45%	7.15%
Herd prevalence	9.63%	8.88%
Animal incidence	0.70%	0.66%



# Evolution of bTB eradication: Overall UK<sup>1</sup> herd prevalence & incidence and targets for 2017-2018



<sup>1</sup> Combined values for England, Wales & Northern Ireland

# England – Programme enhancements 2016

- Mandatory post-movement TB testing of cattle entering the LRA from higher risk areas of GB (April 2016)
- More rigorous TB testing regime for positive herds with OTF status suspended (April 2016)
- Private IFN-gamma blood test available in some situations to supplement skin test and subject to APHA approval (April 2016)
- Badger TB prevalence survey in the Edge Area (2016-17)
- Progressive expansion of licensed badger culling operations: seven new areas in 2016 (HRA) and 11 additional areas in 2017 (HRA & Edge Area), now covering ~21% of the HRA
- Increased use of IFN-gamma blood test in HRA (April 2017)
- Expanded Edge Area with more frequent testing of herds (from Jan 2018)
- Aiming for OTF status in the whole of England by 2038 – application for OTF regional status in LRA submitted July 2017

# Wales – Programme enhancements 2016

- Classification of all new positive herds as OTF status withdrawn ('OTF-W') as the default
- Enhancements to the TB compensation regime to provide further legal powers to reduce compensation payable to farmers in cases of non-compliance
- Development of bespoke action plans for persistent herd breakdowns to expedite restoration of OTF herd status
- Public consultation on a raft of enhancements to the programme, including a new regional approach to bTB eradication (coming into force October 2017)
- Welsh Govt. is working to produce formal targets and interim milestones for bTB eradication. In the short and medium term, the aim is to continue the progress seen in recent years and protect areas where bTB levels are low

# N. Ireland – Programme enhancements 2016

- New TB Testing Services Contract (April 2016) - includes stricter approval of new testers and financial penalties for significant non-compliance at audit. Potentially improved surveillance may have contributed to the increased disease levels.
- Increased, and more targeted use of the IFN-gamma test (February 2016).
- Improved post-mortem surveillance through training and monitoring of performance in abattoirs.
- Clearer guidance on management of severe and chronic breakdown herds (September 2016).
- Launch of TB Strategic Partnership Group Report (Dec 2016). Following two years of evidence gathering and consultation, this industry-government partnership produced 38 recommendations which are likely to direct policy in the coming years.

# Conclusions

- Bovine TB remains the most serious and costly animal health problem for the UK cattle industry & taxpayer
- Wide regional variations in bTB frequency, distribution and epidemiology (largely determined by infection in badgers)
- Slight improvement of key indicators in 2016 relative to 2015 in England HRA. Sustained reductions in Wales. Very low and stable incidence & prevalence in England LRA.
- Commission's targets for 2016 not achieved. Ambitious programme targets also set for the UK in 2017 & 2018, looking for a 20% reduction on 2014 and 2015 baselines
- UK continued to strengthen its programme in 2016 & 2017
- EU financial contribution provides valuable support
- Application submitted for EU financial support in 2018