**Animal Health and Welfare Pathway Vet Sub Group 18/11/21**

This meeting was held to discuss Veterinary capacity and capability. I was unable to attend but I did watch the recording of the meeting.

The notes from this meeting are marked as OFFICIAL SENSITIVE so I can’t share them, however these are my notes.

A Vet questionnaire is in preparation and will be used for confidential interviews with 15 practices to assess the situation (a straw poll or pilot really). Will take roughly an hour and take place over phone/zoom/teams.

Diverse vet practices will be picked for the questionnaire (specialists for each species, mixed practitioners). This should give an impression of whether vet practices have the capacity and capability to deliver the Review. Might be extended to more practices but this is just a start with the 15 practices ( all species varying sizes).

The purpose of the survey is to determine whether veterinary supply constraints could act as a delivery risk to the AHWP and also to provide Defra economists with some idea of how this can all be costed. Focus of questions:

* Existing vet practice capacity and coverage of local holdings / farms;
* Any current labour supply constraints faced by vet practices;
* The extent to which consultations similar to the AHWR are already carried out;
* The likely impact of 100% take-up of AHWRs on vet time / practice capacity.

Current questions broadly include but there is a lot of detail under each heading I’ve just given headlines

### A: Vet practice coverage of local holdings/farms

How many holdings **in total**

How frequently do you conduct visits

Travel to and between farms incurs a cost to veterinary practices. It’s possible that the AHWR will require additional travel time and cost to undertake the specified consultations.

What is the furthest you currently travel to livestock holding/farming (Predicted mileage change for Review) This is to inform costings

### B: Vet practice labour supply constraints

Are you currently carrying vacancies

What would a full complement (in terms of FTE) at your practice consist of

Approximately how many months does it take you to recruit a livestock vet

Proposed questions on wages – (debatable if some practices will give this)

### C: Capability requirements of AHWRs:

Questions here are trying to establish the time taken to undertake the AHWR, Review medicine usage and any sampling for testing… also looks at other people in Vet Led team.

Do you think vets in your practice would require extra training to complete these tasks? If so:

* 1. How long would this training take?
  2. How much would it cost you?

### D: Extent of existing AHWR coverage (to determine how many more vet hours would be required to deliver a AHWR per holding per year)

Table to collect information on which of the actions that will be necessary for the Review are currently undertaken, how long they roughly take, who can carry them out, divided into different species.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| AHWR Component | Species | Please indicate whether this is currently undertaken for registered clients (and if so, for roughly what proportion?) | How long would you estimate is needed, on average, to complete this aspect of the AHWR (including prep time in advance and processing time in-post)? | Listing all of those qualified, please indicate which of your team would be able to complete this aspect of the review, (i.e. vet, technician, nurse etc.) |
| 1. Endemic disease testing | Cattle (BVD blood test) |  |  |  |
| Sheep (anthelmintic resistance test) |  |  |  |
| Pigs (PRRS test) |  |  |  |
| 1. Biosecurity assessment | Cattle |  |  |  |
| Sheep |  |  |  |
| Pigs |  |  |  |
| 1. Medicine usage review | Cattle |  |  |  |
| Sheep |  |  |  |
| Pigs |  |  |  |
| 1. Producing a concise health and welfare practice report | Cattle |  |  |  |
| Sheep |  |  |  |
| Pigs |  |  |  |

### E: Impact of mandatory take-up of AHWRs on vet practice time, capacity and capability

Acknowledging that there won’t be a 100% uptake of the Review by farms, but would vets theoretically have the capacity to visit and review all livestock holdings registered with?

Draft questionnaire review in progress and Next meeting 2nd December 2021