

Lesley Griffiths AC/AM  
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Amgylchedd a Materion Gwledig  
Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-747  
Ein cyf/Our ref LG/00349/17

Mike Hedges AM  
Chair - Petitions Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Ty Hywel  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
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23 February 2017

Dear Mike

Thank you for your letter of 14 February regarding a petition opposing the proposal to implement a 6 monthly TB testing policy for cattle herds in certain parts of Wales.

A consultation on a refreshed TB Eradication Programme closed on 10 January. The consultation sought views on a number of proposals, including the measures to be deployed as part of a regional approach to TB eradication in Wales. One proposed measure was the change from annual herd testing to six monthly testing for all herds in High TB Areas, areas defined according to TB incidence. Another proposal was to six monthly test high risk herds (as identified by set criteria) in Low and Intermediate TB Areas.

In areas of high TB incidence and in herds which are of higher risk of becoming infected, it is of paramount importance to get a step ahead of the disease, find it quickly and stop it spreading, both within the herd and to other herds. A stringent and robust testing regime is, therefore, an essential component of an eradication programme. This is why I felt it was necessary to consult on an enhanced routine testing regime in those herds which are at greatest risk of having a TB breakdown.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

A substantial number of representations were received in response to the consultation and I will carefully be considering these responses before making further decisions on the way forward. I will be making a statement on the refreshed TB eradication Programme in early May.

Regards  
Lesley

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