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4 April 2008

## **Responsibility and Cost Sharing Public Consultation**

### **Output from Regional Workshops**

Dear Sir/Madam,

Last month you either attended one of our twelve regional workshops or registered to attend one but were unable to do so on the day. I am very grateful to you for looking to contribute to this public consultation through participating in a regional workshop.

For those of you who were able to attend, you will recall that the independent facilitator from IBM (either Trevor or Ian) emphasised that everything that was captured on the flip charts would be recorded and fed into the advice that will go to Ministers on the outcome of the consultation exercise. I enclose a copy of the output from the workshop you attended or applied for, compiled by either Trevor or Ian. This reflects what was captured on flip chart at that workshop. In addition, I enclose a summary of the contents of the feedback forms from this workshop. On the Defra website you can view the output and feedback form summaries from the other eleven workshops.

This website also enables you to access copies of the presentations or speaking notes of many of the guest speakers at the regional workshops, as well as a transcript of Lord Rooker's video. The video itself can also be viewed via this link. There is also a reminder of the various exercises Ian and Trevor ran at the workshops to stimulate discussion and ideas. The explanation of the purpose and content summary of the consultation given at all the workshops either by me or a Defra colleague is also available.

At a number of the workshops requests were made for further information on responsibility and cost sharing arrangements that are in place in other countries and for further details of Defra's current

expenditure on animal health and welfare. Information on these two topics can also be found via this link.

If you have time to look at a number of the outputs from different workshops you will notice some recurring themes. Among these were:

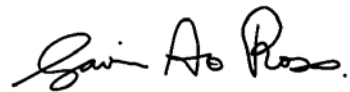
- a lack of trust in Government;
- anger around bTB;
- anger over the source of the FMD '07 outbreak;
- recognition needed that farmers already contributing to animal disease control costs;
- concerns over affordability of cost sharing;
- need to know how much costs overall would fall to industry;
- the need for more visible and effective measures at points of entry into GB to reduce animal disease spread risks;
- ample scope for efficiency savings by removing duplication around inspections and enforcement;
- wish for greater local autonomy in operating movement controls during an outbreak;
- greater Government attention needed on food security;
- shared responsibilities and costs needed to be on a GB basis; and
- all types of hobby farmers need to be included.

While a new, independent body operating at arm's length from Ministers emerges from the workshops as the most popular means for implementing responsibility sharing, at no single workshop did all the tables agree on one means of achieving responsibility sharing. At virtually all of the workshops every option found the support of at least one table. While on cost sharing a wide range of ideas were put forward, many seeking to spread as widely as possible the cost for tackling animal disease prevention and control. An oft expressed view was that only those contributing to the costs should have a say in the measures to be taken.

From the feedback forms it was encouraging that the majority who participated found that the workshops had increased their knowledge of responsibility and cost sharing, had increased the likelihood that they would speak to others about it and respond to the consultation itself, as well as confirming that the length of the workshops was about right. I very much hope that you will find opportunities to discuss responsibility and cost sharing with others potentially affected by it and that you will find the time to respond to the consultation by the 15 April deadline. It does not matter how few or how many of the questions you respond to;

as all responses will feed into the analysis and advice we produce for Ministers. Whether or not you do so, if, on reading the output from the workshop you attended, you feel some points have been overlooked or, with hindsight, you now wish to register additional points, please send these to me at this e-mail address.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gavin A Ross". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'G' and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

**Gavin A Ross**