



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Information for Candidates

Animal Health and Welfare Strategy Steering Group

Appointment of Chair

BACKGROUND

The Great Britain (GB) Animal Health & Welfare Strategy (AHWS) was launched in June 2004. The 10-year Strategy acknowledges the need to take a more strategic approach to the management of a wide range of activities undertaken by Government and others and highlights the importance of a partnership approach. The Strategy aims to improve the health and welfare of kept animals and protect the public from animal diseases, whilst protecting the economic and social well being of people and the environment. The vision and guiding principles of the Strategy are available on the internet: www.wales.gov.uk/ahwstrategy

THE ANIMAL HEALTH & WELFARE STRATEGY STEERING GROUP

The AHWS Steering Group was established in November 2004 at the request of the Minister for Environment, Planning and Countryside to oversee the implementation of the AHWS in Wales. The Group has 17 members who represent the industry and industry views in Wales. The Group advises and assists the Welsh Government on a range of key issues that impact on the AHWS in Wales.

Up until 2010 the GB AHWS was delivered in Wales through an annual Action Plan. In 2011 the Group developed a revised approach to the delivery and implementation of the strategic outcomes of the GB AHWS in Wales and how the work of the AHWS Steering Group should be prioritised moving forward.

The Group have agreed their top non statutory disease priorities, these are split into 3 categories, Beef, Dairy and Sheep. The AHWS Steering Group's agreed top priorities for 2011/12 are:

Beef - BVD, Johne's and Liver Fluke

Dairy - Johne's Disease, Lameness, Mastitis and BVD and

Sheep - Sheep Scab, Liver Fluke, Lameness and Lambing Losses.

The AHWS Steering Group has the following terms of reference:

1. Working in partnership to take forward the implementation of the GB Animal Health and Welfare Strategy in Wales.
2. To agree, maintain and review as necessary the disease priority list for Wales.
3. Using the disease priority list, to develop and take forward targeted proposals for tackling animal disease and welfare issues in Wales

Members of the Steering Group are representatives of, and nominated by, the following stakeholder organisations:

- Animal Health & Veterinary Laboratories Agency (AHVLA)
- British Veterinary Association (BVA)
- Country Landowners Association (CLA)
- Dairy Co
- Dairy Development Centre (DDC)
- Farm Animal Welfare Council (FAWC)
- Farmers' Union of Wales (FUW)
- Hybu Cig Cymru (HCC)

- Food Standards Agency (FSA)
- Menter a Busnes
- National Beef Association (NBA)
- National Farmers Union (NFU) Cymru
- National Sheep Association (NSA) (Cymru/ Wales Region)
- Organic Centre Wales (OCW)
- Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Wales (RSPCA Cymru)
- Welsh Lamb & Beef Producers Ltd
- Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA)

The Steering Group is supported by a Secretariat drawn from members of the Animal Health branch in the Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer, Welsh Government.

REPORTING

Minutes of the meetings are public documents and are available on the Internet at:

www.wales.gov.uk/ahwstrategy

ROLE DESCRIPTION

The Chair will work closely with the Chief Veterinary Officer for Wales to deliver the Animal Health & Welfare Strategy for Wales by:

- Ensuring that key and appropriate issues are discussed by the Steering Group in a timely and effective manner;
- Encouraging members of the Steering Group to influence and promote high standards of animal health & welfare throughout Wales;
- Ensuring that the disease priorities agreed by the Steering Group are reviewed and agreed by the Group and published on an annual basis;
- Ensuring that the work on the agreed disease priorities is taken forward and delivered by individual organisations as well as collaboratively by the Steering Group;
- Ensuring that the welfare of both livestock and companion animals remains at the heart of the group's deliberations in accordance with Article 13 of the Lisbon Treaty;
- Ensuring that welfare priorities are agreed by the Steering Group and that pragmatic and attainable objectives are set and reviewed annually;
- Enabling all members to make a full contribution to the work of the Steering Group and ensuring that the group acts as a team;
- Agreeing with the CVO Wales and the Steering Group the agenda for the meetings;
- Approving Steering Group minutes;
- Assisting the Steering Group to establish and maintain appropriate links with stakeholders across Wales and GB, including the Animal Health and Welfare Board for England;
- Representing the Steering Group at appropriate events and meetings and to represent the views of the Steering Group to Welsh Ministers;
- Working with the Steering Group and Welsh Government officials to develop a new Wales Animal Health & Welfare Strategy post 2014.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Candidates will need to demonstrate the following key skills:

- Understanding of the Animal Health & Welfare Strategy visions and guiding principles;
- Understanding of partnership working and be able to influence the relationships between Government, the farming industry and the Third Sector
- Understanding of the livestock industry and aware of the companion animal sector;
- Commitment to improving the health and welfare of farmed and companion animals in Wales;
- The ability to communicate both orally (in a group and on a face to face basis) with clarity of thought and expression;
- The ability to listen, question, summarise and command respect;
- The ability to be able to work well within a team and to make a positive contribution to discussions;
- The ability to lead and be able to secure consensus between possible disparate views and be able to act without bias;
- The ability to communicate and influence stakeholders and industry.

TERMS OF APPOINTMENT

Appointments will be made by the Minister for Environment and Sustainable Futures on behalf of the Welsh Government.

DURATION OF APPOINTMENT

The appointment will be for three years.

STARTING DATE

April 2012.

ELIGIBILITY

Applicants should be persons who conduct themselves at all times in a manner which will maintain public confidence. In particular, applicants are required to declare whether they are aware of anything in their private or professional life that would be an embarrassment to themselves or to the Welsh Government if it became known in the event of appointment.

TIME COMMITMENT

The Chair and members of the Steering Group will be expected to be available to attend four meetings a year. A day should be set aside for each meeting and up to half a day for preparation prior to each meeting. The total commitment in days per year will be approximately 6 days.

LOCATION OF MEETINGS

Steering Group meetings will usually be held in Cardiff but may, on occasion, be held elsewhere in Wales.

REMUNERATION

The Chair of the Steering Group will not be remunerated but will be reimbursed for travel and subsistence expenses incurred in attending meetings in the capacity of Chair.

ASSISTANCE FOR DISABLED MEMBERS

Where appropriate all reasonable adjustments will be made to enable members to effectively carry out their duties.

SELECTION PROCESS

It is the policy of the Welsh Government to promote and integrate equality of opportunity into all aspects of its business including appointments. The principles of fair and open competition will apply and appointments will be made on merit.

Invitations to interview are likely to be issued in February and it is expected that interviews will be held during March 2012.

APPLICATION

Applications should be made by submitting a personnel statement of no more than 500 words to:

Endemics & AHWS Strategy Branch
OCVO
1st Floor
Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ

Or email endemics@wales.gsi.gov.uk

You are also welcome to include your CV. You should provide evidence of the way your experience meets the criteria set out in the person specification by drawing on examples of your professional career or life experiences. Can you also include your contact details.

CLOSING DATE

The closing date for applications is ????????. Applications received after this date will not be considered.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND QUERIES

For further information on the application process please contact the Endemics & AHW Strategy Branch on 029 2082 5503 or email endemics@wales.gsi.gov.uk