

Animal Health & Welfare Strategy Mailbox  
Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
West Wing  
Cathays Park 2  
Cardiff CF10 3NQ

17 April 2014

Dear Sir/Madam,

## **ACHIEVING HIGH STANDARDS TOGETHER – A NEW FRAMEWORK FOR ANIMAL HEALTH & WELFARE IN WALES**

Thank you for consulting Natural Resources Wales on the development of a new framework for animal health and welfare in Wales and the draft strategic outcomes.

Natural Resources Wales works as a regulator, partner and advisor to businesses, non-governmental organisations, Local Authorities and communities to help deliver Welsh Government and European Union policies and priorities. Our purpose is to ensure that the environment and natural resources of Wales are sustainably maintained, enhanced and used, now and in the future.

Natural Resources Wales' remit does not specifically include animal health and welfare, but we have an interest in certain areas of work where there may be an impact on the environment or wildlife. Examples include the management of bovine TB in wildlife such as badgers and deer and effective flock management measures to control ecto-parasites reducing the need to dispose of spent sheep dip.

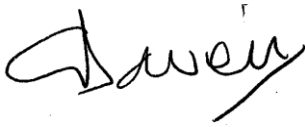
Given our remit as described above, Natural Resources Wales will not be responding in detail to the proposed new framework and the draft strategic outcomes. We welcome the recognition that the strategic outcomes must encompass wider issues such as the environment and the inclusion of the indirect strategic outcome for Wales to have a 'high quality environment'. It should however, be noted that there can be direct, as well as indirect, impacts from the management of animal health and welfare on the environment.

We also welcome the continued inclusion of the key principle that prevention is better than cure, as benefits of animal health and welfare can help to minimise the impact of animal disease outbreaks on the environment.

Likewise, we consider it appropriate that wildlife has been included not only in terms of their potential for the spread of disease but also where actions affect the health and welfare of the wildlife, itself.

We look forward to continuing our working relationship with the Welsh Government and the staff of the Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer. If you have any questions about our response or require further information, please contact Liz Halliwell at [Liz.Halliwell@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk](mailto:Liz.Halliwell@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk) or on 01248 387256.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ceri Davies', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ceri Davies  
Executive Director for Knowledge, Strategy & Planning  
Cyfarwyddwr Gweithredol Gwybodaeth, Strategaeth a Chynllunio  
[Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru](http://www.naturalresourceswales.gov.uk) / Natural Resources Wales