

# Notifiable Animal Diseases Plan

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Prepare • Respond • Recover

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## DISTRIBUTION

Council Leadership Team
Communications and Customer Insight Manager
Incident Managers
Emergency Resilience Team

### 1. INTRODUCTION

This plan focuses on the specific arrangements in response to and recovery from an animal disease outbreak impacting on Fife. These arrangements will be activated alongside, and will support, the Council's generic arrangements detailed in the Incident Management Plan.

#### 1.1 Aim

The aim of this plan is to detail the specific arrangements of how Fife Council will effectively respond to and recover from a notifiable animal disease outbreak impacting on the Fife area.

#### 1.2 Objectives

The objectives of this plan are to ensure that Fife Council effectively:

- Provides support, as required, to Scottish Government and the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) to achieve their objectives
- Co-ordinates its response to a notifiable animal disease outbreak
- Provides information and advice to the affected communities in Fife
- Leads the recovery phase following any outbreak affecting Fife
- Complies with the requirements of the Civil Contingencies Act (2004)

#### 1.3 Scope

This plan details the arrangements to support APHA in carrying out their responsibilities and the additional demands which animal disease outbreaks create for local authorities.

These specific arrangements are supported by the generic arrangements which are detailed in the Incident Management Plan.

Excluded from the scope of this plan is:

- the operational response to a notifiable animal disease outbreak. These operational procedures (Public Protection Team Response to Notifiable Diseases Procedures) are maintained and held by Economy, Planning and Employability Services (Protective Services)
- the response to a non-notifiable disease
- the arrangements for working with partner organisations in response to an animal disease outbreak. The relevant plans which provides this information are detailed at para 2.7 under Associated Plans.

## Animal Diseases Plan

### 1.4 Planning Assumptions and Limitations

This plan will contribute to the effort to mitigate the impact and deal with the consequences of an animal disease outbreak in Fife. The following assumptions and limitations are acknowledged:

- The occurrence, spread and severity of an animal disease outbreak is difficult to predict. Any planning arrangements need to be flexible and adaptable to any developing scenario.
- An animal disease outbreak can occur out with office hours which limits the availability of staff to respond. Protective Services will include an appropriate level of response in their operational procedures.

### 1.5 Risk

The risk of an exotic notifiable animal disease has been considered by the Fife Local Resilience Partnership (LRP) as part of the local Risk and Preparedness Assessment process. This process assessed the risk of an animal disease outbreak as 'high'.

Fife Council's generic, flexible and adaptable arrangements will mitigate the impact and consequences of this risk to Fife's communities.

### 1.6 Training and Exercising

Staff from services identified in 3.2 will be provided with training, exercising and briefing in relation to both:

- Specific actions required to respond to a notifiable animal disease outbreak
- Fife Councils Generic Incident Management arrangements (this will be provided through Fife Council's Resilience Training Programme, as detailed in Fife Council's Resilience Policy and Framework)

### 1.7 Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

The Emergency Resilience Team will be responsible for ensuring that arrangements are in place to monitor, evaluate and review this plan. This plan will be revised, where appropriate, to include any lessons identified from training, exercising or activation of this plan.

In addition to ongoing monitoring, this plan will be formally reviewed every three years or as required.

## 2. GENERAL INFORMATION

### 2.1 Background

An animal disease outbreak can vary in scale and has the potential to have a significant impact on both society and the economy. Responding to such an outbreak will involve joined up working at both a local and national level.

Scottish Government has the legal responsibility and authority for the control of notifiable animal disease in Scotland. This role is primarily carried out by APHA, who is the lead organisation in the operational planning and response to an animal disease outbreak. In carrying out their responsibilities, APHA will require support from other partner organisations, including local authorities across Scotland.

Local authorities are the statutory bodies for enforcing livestock disease controls and are empowered to monitor compliance with movement licences. Local authorities therefore have a major role in responding to outbreaks of notifiable animal disease.

### 2.2 Terminology

The term 'notifiable' means that there is a legal obligation to notify the relevant authority, in most cases APHA, if a person suspects a disease. These diseases are notifiable because of their potential in most cases for very serious and rapid spread. They can have serious socioeconomic or public health consequences and are of major importance to the international trade of animals or animal products.

Many notifiable animal diseases pose no risk to human health but some do i.e. avian flu and rabies. These diseases are known as being 'zoonotic'. Where an animal disease outbreak is zoonotic, local authorities would also work closely with the relevant health board(s) in managing the human health response.

Notifiable animal diseases are called 'exotic' when the disease is not currently present in the UK and 'endemic' when they are present in the UK .

A full list of notifiable diseases are named in Section 88 of the Animal Health Act 1981 and can be found on Scottish Government website ([Notifiable Animal Diseases](#)).

A glossary of terms is provided in appendix A.

### 2.3 Role of Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA)

Animal disease differs from most other emergencies in that the Scottish Government, via APHA, is responsible for the operational and policy response on disease management. APHA's key responsibilities include:

- the detection of diseased animals
- the slaughter and disposal of animals
- the containment of disease on suspect, infected or dangerous contact premises
- the containment of disease in declared zones/areas

Fife Council and other partners support APHA, as required, in carrying out these responsibilities. However, Fife Council and other partners also have responsibility for the management of the wider community impact and consequences following an animal disease outbreak.

### 2.4 Restrictions on Premises and Control Zones

On suspicion of a notifiable disease, restrictions will be placed on the suspect premises by APHA preventing any movement of things liable to spread disease such as livestock, vehicles and visitors. A temporary control zone (TCZ) around the suspect premises may be put in place by Scottish Ministers.

If disease is confirmed, Scottish Ministers have powers to put a Protection Zone (PZ) in place as well as a wider Surveillance Zone (SZ). The size of these zones will vary depending on the nature of the animal disease but is likely to be a minimum radius of 3km for the PZ and a minimum radius of 10km for the SZ.

It is the responsibility of local authorities and specifically for the purpose of this plan, Fife Council, to enforce the restrictions put in place within these zones.

### 2.5 National and Regional Structures

Specific national and regional arrangements have been established to ensure a fully coordinated response. These are detailed in the RRP Exotic Notifiable Animal Diseases Scottish Framework Plan and will be activated dependant on the scale of the animal disease outbreak.

The following table summarises the information flow between the key organisations and multi-agency groups that may be established to effectively respond to and recover from an animal disease outbreak in both the control of the disease and the wider consequences.

Fife Council will be involved in both disease control and the management of wider consequences via the Resilience Partnership and SGoRR and will contribute to relevant groups as detailed in table 1 below.

## Animal Diseases Plan

Table 1

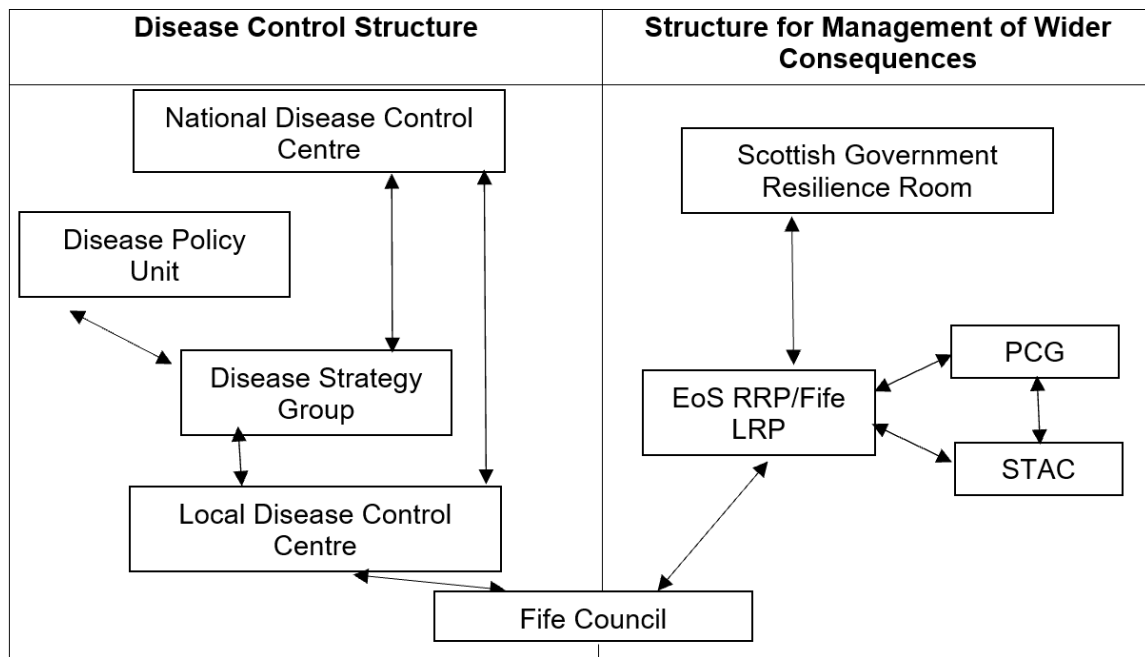


Illustration of the multi-agency response structures activated following the identification of a notifiable animal disease outbreak in Fife

### 2.6 Battle Rhythm

In order to manage the outbreak, meetings and reporting that takes place across the command and control structures should adhere to a pre-determined schedule (known as a 'battle rhythm').

The exact battle rhythm followed will depend on a number of factors including the circumstance of the disease, stage of the outbreak and affected areas. Appendix B details the main meetings held and reports compiled.

### 2.7 Associated Plans – Animal Diseases

The following associated plans detail the specific control strategies that may be activated for each type of exotic notifiable animal disease:

- Scottish Government Exotic Diseases of Animal Generic Contingency Framework Plan and Control Strategies
- Regional Resilience Partnership (RRP) Exotic Notifiable Animal Diseases Scottish Framework Plan



## Animal Diseases Plan

The following generic plans may be activated to support the response to an animal disease outbreak:

- East of Scotland RRP Response Activation Protocol
- East of Scotland RRP Public Communications Group Response Plan
- Fife LRP STAC Plan
- Fife LRP Recovery Plan
- Fife Council Incident Management Plan
- Fife LRP Generic Response Arrangements
- Fife Council Directorate Business Continuity Plans
- NHS Fife and Fife Council joint Health Protection plan 2020 - 2022
- Fife Council's Communicable Diseases Plan may be activated where the notifiable animal disease is 'zoonotic' and impacts on human health.
- Protective Services Notifiable Animal Diseases Response Plan

### 3. INCIDENT MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

#### 3.1 Activation

When APHA has been informed about a suspect notifiable disease, APHA will alert Protective Services by email.

If suspicion of disease is strong, a member of Protective Services may be invited to participate in an Amber Teleconference organised by Scottish Government. This meeting is the forum where any planned communications are discussed and reviewed with all UK administrations.

Following any amber teleconference APHA will notify the council, via 2 routes: via Protective Services or the emergency resilience team.

An assessment will be carried out by Protective Services to consider the activation of this plan in discussion with the duty ERO.

It is worth noting that certain aspects of the response will be lead by other agencies, for example, NHS Fife will be responsible for tracing of human contacts (for zoonotic diseases), the disinfection of domestic premises are responsibility of the householder and APHA arranges the disposal of animal carcasses.

#### 3.2 Council Incident Management Team (IMT)

On notification of any emergency, consideration should be given to establishing a Council Incident Management Team (IMT) to enhance the Council's co-ordinated response.

The objectives of the Incident Management Team will, in addition to those detailed in Fife Council's Incident Management Plan, include the following:

- Work with partners to contain outbreak
- Monitor and ensure compliance with restrictions
- Assess, and manage, impact of restrictions on local community (including businesses)

##### 3.2.1. Fife Council Key Roles and Responsibilities

In addition to the roles and responsibilities detailed in the Regional Resilience Partnership (RRP) Exotic Notifiable Animal Diseases Scottish Framework Plan and the Fife Council's Incident Management Plan; the specific roles and responsibilities of Fife Council staff in relation to an animal disease incident are as below. These will be carried out as required with Protective Services being the lead.

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### Protective Services, Planning and Employability Services (EPES)

Within Protective Services, the following teams have a key role in the response to any animal disease incident:

- Environmental Health (Food and Workplace Safety)
- Environmental Health (Public Protection)

This service will lead the council's response to an animal disease incident and key tasks include:

- Member of Council IMT, if formed
- Deploy a liaison officer to the Disease Policy Unit (only if required)
- Decide on the level of response required
- Attend Birdtable meetings run by APHA or UK government, which, depending on the incident can be once a day or more often and in different formats.
- Serve restriction notices and secure infected or suspect premises (up-to-date notices can be found on Resilience Direct)
- Assist Scottish Government in the issue of licences for movements
- Produce and erect signs warning of disease at controlled zones/area boundaries (up-to-date signage can be found on Resilience Direct) to make the public aware of the incident, the area impacted and guidance to comply with.
- as specified in the Rabies Control Order 1974, Protective Services would seek help from other services to assist in seizing, collection and transportation of stray animals to detention pounds
- liaise with Trusts and Assets, Transportation and Environment in the monitoring and closure of public access routes and to install signage and monitor the use of footpaths
- Liaise with the Central Print Unit on the production of signage
- Provide advice to the public, including businesses and neighbouring properties on restrictions; monitor compliance with legislation, investigate incidents on non-compliance and issue official notices
- Dependent on the disease, arrange for the patrol of infected areas to ensure compliance with movement restrictions and/or closure of public right of access within control zones for pedestrians and vehicles
- Set up fixed cleansing and disinfection sites within infected areas and/or roadside points for vehicles leaving the control zones
- During an outbreak of rabies only, control of stray animals in an Infected Area, establish and administer stray animal pound(s) and arrange the destruction and disposal of unclaimed strays
- Liaise with APHA when they arrange the disposal of animal carcasses, especially to identify sites for disposal of animal carcasses that will not impact the environment, e.g. contamination of water in nearby rivers, burns or wells.
- Advise on environmental health aspects to all affected, both businesses and private properties

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- Identify and monitor municipal and private water supplies
- Member of STAC, if formed
- Advise on environmental health aspects
- Link with NHS Fife, where NHS Fife IMT formed
- Any other tasks, which may vary and are not always a requirement of the legislation. E.g. clearing the snow on private land, requests usually come via a Birdtable meeting or directly from an APHA field officer who will contact a manager in the relevant council service directly or via the ERT.

## Business and Employability, Economy, Planning and Employability Services

Key tasks of this service will include:

- Member of Council IMT, if formed
- Assess economic impact of incident on local businesses and tourism
- Consult with external stakeholders to discuss and agree appropriate strategies to mitigate the economic consequences of any outbreak
- Liaise with local businesses impacted by the incident

## Assets, Transportation and Environment

Key tasks of this service may include:

- Road diversions and closure signage
- Identification of suitable buildings for detention pounds
- Allocation of vehicles adapted to carry stray animals
- Construction of any ad-hoc facilities for the detention of stray animals
- Placing signage on closure of public access routes

### **3.3. Stand Down and Debrief**

When the notification for stand down is received, the generic arrangements for recovery as detailed in the Incident Management Plan will be put in place.

The lead will be handed over from APHA to the responsible local authority i.e. Fife Council for the purpose of this plan.

In all instances where this plan has been activated, it is essential to identify the positive and negative issues arising from the emergency. The format and formality of the debrief process will vary depending on the scale of the emergency.

Any debrief will follow the guidance provided within the Scottish Resilience Development Service's National Debriefing and Lessons Identified Protocol to identify lessons learned and areas of good practice during the incident management process. These will then inform a review of Fife Council's Animal Diseases Plan.

### Glossary of Terms

Abbreviation	Term
APHA	Animal and Plant Health Agency
DPU	Disease Policy Unit
DSG	Disease Strategy Group
ERO	Emergency Resilience Officer
IMT	Incident Management Team
LDCC	Local Disease Control Centre
LRP	Local Resilience Partnership
NDCC	National Disease Control Centre
OCC	Outbreak Co-ordination Centre
PCG	Public Communications Group
PZ	Protection Zone
RRP	Regional Resilience Partnership
SEPA	Scottish Environment Protection Agency
SGoRR	Scottish Government Resilience Room
STAC	Scientific and Technical Advice Cell
SZ	Surveillance Zone
TCZ	Temporary Control Zone

## Exotic Animal Disease Outbreak Battle Rhythm

Time	Event	Purpose
0800 – 0830	Daily Strategic Stock take	To ensure senior managers involved in the disease control operation are aware of the latest developments and able to plan and take decisions on the overall strategic direction.
0830 – 0900	NDCC Bird-table	To provide brief situation reports on all aspects of the operation to those concerned in its management, operational partners, and external stakeholders, to encourage a coordinated and cooperative response. To identify key emerging issues and allocate responsibility for resolving them/reporting back.
	LDCC Bird-table	
0900 – 0930	GB Daily Communications Meeting – SG/APHA/Defra/WG brief all parties involved	To identify and agree communications strategy for the day
1000 – 1100	SGoR-M NSC (THRC)	To provide a forum for Ministerial review of strategies in a wider Government context and for dealing with decisions relating to policy and operational strategy issues that affect other Government Departments.
1200 – 1230	NDCC Bird-table	
	LDCC Bird-table	
1400 – 1430	LDCC-MCT meeting	
1500 – 1600	NSC (THRC)	
1800 – 1830	NDCC Bird-table	
	LDCC Bird-table	
	National Experts Group (NEG)	Provides expert and technical advice on the disease control policy and its control to the three GB administrations.
2100 approx.	Daily report compiled and circulated – to provide a comprehensive situation report on all aspects	