Policy paper: Yate and Chipping Sodbury: reducing the risk of flooding

Updated: Updated with feedback from consultation, preferred option and next steps.

This document explains how the Environment Agency is investigating ways to offer flood protection to 100 homes and 40 businesses at risk of flooding from the River Frome and its tributaries.

Official Statistics: Residues of veterinary medicines in food: 2017

Updated: Updated results paper

This document contains information on substances found in the UK where the level of concentration of a residue in an animal product is above the action point. Where a Maximum Residue Limit (MRL) is set, this is the concentration used. Where no MRL has been set, the Limit of Quantification (LOQ) is used which is the smallest analyte concentration for which a method has been validated with specified accuracy and precision to enable quantification.

The first table is a summary of the following detailed results table with outcomes of investigations into non-compliant samples and what action is being taken to avoid unacceptable residues in the future.

Press release: HMRC launches new Fraud Hotline

HM Revenue and Customs has launched a new hotline for the public to report fraud and evasion in the fight against tax fraud.

This service will replace the two separate tax evasion and customs hotlines with one, streamlining HMRC’s intelligence gathering on tax fraud.

Customers can report all kinds of tax fraud and evasion on the new hotline, including PAYE and National Insurance fraud, undisclosed offshore investments, non-payment of the National Minimum Wage, tax credit fraud, failure to pay UK duty, tax evasion and VAT fraud.

Jennie Granger, HMRC's Director General for Customer Compliance, said:

> Information provided by the public is a crucial element of HMRC's work to close the tax gap, so it's vital that the reporting process is as simple and accessible as possible. The HMRC Fraud Hotline will form an important part of our intelligence gathering operations to bring in more money for the Exchequer and the country.
>
> We encourage the public to continue to work with us and report any suspected fraud or evasion to us for investigation.

- The HMRC Fraud Hotline – on 0800 788 887 – is open between 8am – 8pm seven days a week, 365 days a year.
- You can also report online using our digital form available on GOV.UK.
- In the last financial year we received over 113,000 reports from members of the public providing information to the department.
- An audio clip for broadcast can be found here

Official Statistics: Planning Performance Statistics, Quarter 3 2016/17

Latest release of planning performance data

Press release: UK Public Health Rapid Support Team appoints first director

Funded by the UK Government, the UK-PHRST is jointly run by Public Health England (PHE) and the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, with Oxford University and King's College London as academic partners.

The UK-PHRST consists of public health experts, scientists, academics and clinicians ready to respond to urgent requests from countries around the world within 48 hours to support them in preventing local disease outbreaks from becoming global epidemics.

When not responding to outbreaks, the UK-PHRST will conduct rigorous research to improve the response to future epidemics. It will also have a strong focus on helping vulnerable low- and middle-income countries develop their own capacity to identify and control disease outbreaks, working with counterparts in developing countries to train and support their responders.

The team will also assist with training a group of public health reservists to maintain the UK's capability to rapidly scale up the response to any disease outbreak or health emergency.

Professor Daniel Bausch, a specialist in emerging infectious diseases trained in internal medicine, infectious diseases, tropical medicine, and public health, will take up the position of Director of the UK-PHRST in April. He has extensive experience in sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, and Asia combatting deadly global health threats such as Ebola virus, hantavirus, and SARS coronavirus.

Professor Bausch's most recent role was as the technical lead for the Epidemic Clinical Management Unit in the World Health Organization's (WHO) Pandemic and Epidemic Diseases Department. He is a tenured Professor at the Tulane University Health Sciences Center in the United States and has served as a regular consultant for the WHO, the United Nations and the US National Institutes of Health.

In addition to his expertise in the sciences, Professor Bausch places a strong emphasis on capacity building in all his projects and also has a keen interest in the role of the scientist in promoting health and human rights.

The 2014 Ebola virus crisis in West Africa highlighted the need for the international community to develop a system to help countries respond to and control disease outbreaks that threaten public health before they can develop into global emergencies. The UK-PHRST was established in response to this need as part of the UK's contribution to global health security.

The government has made £20 million available from the UK development assistance budget to fund the team over 5 years. This new capacity reflects the UK's enhanced commitment to being a global leader in public health and science and at the forefront of fighting global threats.

Public Health and Innovation Minister, Nicola Blackwood said:

> Deploying emergency support rapidly overseas to investigate disease outbreaks will help save lives and prevent emergencies like the Ebola crisis happening again.
>
> Professor Bausch brings a vital background in tackling epidemics with the United Nations and World Health Organisation. I am

> confident he will continue the UK’s proud tradition of being at the forefront of fighting global threats.

Duncan Selbie, Chief Executive at PHE, said:

> Professor Bausch brings a wealth of expertise in dealing with international disease outbreaks. The UK-PHRST will work with countries across the globe to stop the spread of deadly diseases, not only protecting the UK but playing a vital role at the forefront of global public health security.

Professor Peter Piot, Director of the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, said:

> Professor Bausch’s extensive experience means he is ideally placed to lead the UK-PHRST. He combines expertise in academic research and the practical control of emerging infectious diseases, and has worked around the world, including in West Africa during the recent Ebola epidemic. Under his leadership the team will work to support countries and prevent disease outbreaks from escalating into large epidemics that can devastate societies around the world.

Daniel Bausch, Director of the UK-PHRST, said:

> Effective control of outbreaks will require a multi-pronged approach, including innovative solutions to optimise preparedness and emergency response capacities, long-term commitments to strengthen surveillance and response systems in resource-poor areas of the world, and advocacy and action to ensure the universal right to health.
>
> The UK-PHRST represents an opportunity to create a model programme at the forefront of these endeavours, with real impact to limit disease not only overseas but also in the UK.

Current UK-PHRST research projects focus on various elements key to understanding and controlling outbreaks, including in the areas of epidemiology, patient-based research, laboratory science, social science, and mental health and well-being.

Background to Professor Daniel Bausch

Professor Bausch is a tenured professor in the Department of Tropical Medicine at the Tulane University Health Sciences Centre in New Orleans, USA. He has a Masters of Public Health degree in tropical medicine and is a specialist in the research and control of emerging tropical viruses. He has

extensive experience working with deadly global health threats, such as SARS coronavirus and Ebola.

Professor Bausch has also held the position of Chief of the Epidemiology Unit of the Viral Special Pathogens Branch at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, USA; Head of the Virology and Emerging Infections Department at the U.S. Naval Medical Research Unit in Lima, Peru; and Technical Lead for the WHO Epidemic Clinical Management Unit in Geneva, Switzerland. He has served as a regular consultant for the WHO, United Nations, and U.S. National Institutes of Health.

Professional achievements

- 1996 to 2003: Medical Officer (and Acting Chief 2001 to 2002), Epidemiology unit, Special Pathogens Branch, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, USA
- 1996 to 2002: Director, CDC Lassa Fever Research Field Station, Guinea, West Africa
- 2001 to 2003: Commander, Public Health Service Commissioned Corps
- 2002: Secretary’s Award for Distinguished Service, Uganda Ebola Outbreak Response Team, DHHS
- 2002, 2003: Foreign duty service awards, Public Health Service
- 2003 to present: Professor with tenure, Department of Tropical Medicine, Tulane School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine
- 2004 to 2009: Senior medical-technical coordinator, WHO Mano River Union Lassa Fever Network
- 2004: Secretary’s Award for Distinguished Service, SARS Outbreak Response Team (Vietnam), DHHS
- 2011 to 2015: Head of Virology and Emerging Infections Department, U.S. Naval Medical Research Unit No 6, Lima, Peru

Background to the UK-PHRST

The UK-PHRST continually monitors infectious diseases and other hazards globally, identifying situations where the deployment of specialist expertise could mitigate these threats.

Informed by surveillance data, the UK-PHRST will be able to deploy on behalf of UK Government in response to requests from low- and middle-income countries, as well as with the WHO and the Global Outbreak and Response Network (GOARN).

The deployable team includes experts in:

- tracking the progress of an outbreak (epidemiologists)
- diagnosing the cause of an outbreak (microbiologists)
- advising on outbreak control measures (infection prevention and control) and community responses to outbreaks (social scientists)
- developing the best clinical response measures (clinical researchers)

The core team consists of:

- epidemiologists
- clinical researcher
- social scientist
- microbiologist
- data manager, analyst and systems expert
- infection prevention and control expert
- logistician

The core team will be backed by a reservist team who will trained to UK-PHRST standards and protocols but will have routine ‘day jobs’ in their employing organisation.