

**Westminster Food & Nutrition Forum policy conference:
Next steps for animal health, welfare and standards in the UK**

Timing: Morning, Monday, 7th July 2025

*****Taking place online*****



Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Dr Danny Chambers MP
- 9.05 **'What are the key animal welfare issues now: possibilities for improvement in relation to trade'**
Professor Donald Broom, Emeritus Professor, Animal Welfare, University of Cambridge
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.25 **'Access to veterinary medicines - the need for a UK/EU Veterinary Medicines Agreement'**
Donal Murphy, Deputy CEO and Head, International and Regulatory Affairs, National Office of Animal Health
- 9.35 **Access to veterinary medicines and managing regulatory divergence for Northern Ireland**
Dr Sam Strain, Chief Executive, Animal Health and Welfare NI
- 9.45 **Priorities for animal welfare in trade and consumer policy - regulatory alignment, standards, and transparency**
ensuring alignment of regulatory standards | plans to protect domestic animal welfare standards | assessing potential barriers to trade and mitigating risks from lower-welfare imports | priorities for improving the wider agri-food system | key considerations for mandatory animal welfare labelling and enhancing public information | developing a Common Sanitary and Phytosanitary agreement with the EU | improving transparency, traceability, and consumer confidence
Mandy Carter, Co-Executive Director, Animal Policy International
Anthony Woolich, Partner, Blake Morgan
James West, Chief Public Affairs Manager, Compassion in World Farming
Senior representative, consumer
Senior representative, retail
- 10.10 Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.30 **'Assessing government preparedness for animal disease outbreaks - surveillance, prioritisation, and building long-term resilience'**
Rich Sullivan-Jones, Director, Defra Value for Money Audit, National Audit Office
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.55 **Chair's closing remarks**
Dr Danny Chambers MP
- 11.00 Break
- 11.10 **Chair's opening remarks**
Lord Trees, Co-Chair, APPG for Animal Welfare
- 11.15 **Supporting farmers in improving welfare standards on farms, key priorities for new trade deals, and tackling biosecurity risk**
Catherine McLaughlin, Chief Advisor, Animal Health and Welfare, National Farmers' Union
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.40 **Next steps for improving biosecurity, disease control, and supporting animal health and welfare on farms**
key considerations for disease control development | tackling Bovine TB following the new TB eradication strategy | supporting the Animal Health and Welfare Pathway and wider farming systems reform | addressing stakeholder concerns around poultry breeds, overcrowding, and intensive production | opportunities for utilising innovation | implementing surveillance measures | strategic options for supporting farm-level welfare | implications for the National Food Strategy and 25-year farming roadmap
Sarah Tomlinson, Lead Veterinary Science Expert, Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board
Dr Robert Hyde, Assistant Professor, Computational Biology, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, University of Nottingham
Professor Paul Wigley, Professor, Animal Microbial Ecosystems, Bristol Veterinary School, University of Bristol
Senior representative, food sector
Senior representative, farming
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.30 **Policy priorities for animal health - capacity for surveillance, strengthening response, and veterinary medicine supply**
Senior representative, policy
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Westminster Food & Nutrition Forum closing remarks**
Lord Trees, Co-Chair, APPG for Animal Welfare
Jessica Lear, Westminster Food & Nutrition Forum