Isle of Man Government

Reiltys Ellan Vannin

Consultation Document

Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture

Amendment of Cattle Identification Legislation:

Removal of the duty of deadstock collectors to inform DEFA of bovine identities

July 2016

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1. Introduction

1.1 This consultation seeks to inform of a proposal for one specific change to legislation controlling the identification of cattle.

1.2 If you have any queries regarding this proposal please contact:

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2. Background

2.1 An appeal decision made under the Countryside Care Scheme in relation to a breach of Statutory Management Requirement 6 (SMR 6) – identification and registration of animals – was overturned in 2013 due to a perceived flaw in the operational practices of the Department (DEFA) and the Department of Infrastructure (DOI) (as operator of the Animal Waste Processing Plant: AWPP).

2.2 It was recommended that the relevant legislation be reviewed in order to ensure the legislation met DEFA's obligations on bovine identification and traceability, and that the legislation was "workable in a commercial sense".

2.3 Dr Steve Webster of Delta-innovation Ltd was commissioned to undertake the review and his report is reproduced in Appendix 1. Please note items that include personal information have been redacted from the report for the purposes set down in the Data Protection Act 2002.

2.4 Having considered the review, DEFA proposes that a minor amendment to the Bovine Identity and Traceability Order 2007 (BIT Order 2007), in line with the review's recommendation, is required. A draft of the legislation is reproduced in Appendix 2.

2.5 DEFA welcomes your comments on all aspects of the proposals.

3. Objectives of the new legislation

3.1 The primary goal is to streamline the legislation in order to provide a single route for the identities of cattle that have died to be reported to DEFA, and a single route for the return of their passports

3.2 A single route will reduce the potential for confusion, loss of documents, transcription errors and remove an unnecessary duty from deadstock collectors (DOI as operators of the AWPP are the sole deadstock collector).

3.3 The legislation must also remain compliant with EU rules on the movement of bovines, in order for the trade in both cattle and beef to be maintained (traceability of both the animals and the meat derived from them).

4. Scope of the new Legislation

4.1 The scope of the BIT Order 2007 is reduced.

4.2 The removal of paragraph 31(8) from the BIT Order 2007 (shown below) will not affect compliance with the relevant EU legislation

(8) Any person who collects any dead cattle which have been killed on a holding or died on a holding other than a slaughterhouse, shall notify the Department within 7 days of collection of the animal of the ear tag number of the animal and the holding of collection.

4.3 Compliance with legislation will be both simplified and enhanced for the following reasons:

There will be no additional step between the farmer and DEFA in the reporting of identity: notification of the identity of cattle that have died on the holding will still be required under paragraph 9 (1) of the BIT Order 2007 below:

9. (1) The keeper of cattle on a holding shall ensure that, in respect of the death of any cattle, the Department is notified within seven days of such death, either by surrendering the appropriately completed passport to the Department or electronically, provided that the appropriately completed passport is subsequently surrendered on demand.

The requirement within the current BIT Order 2007 for deadstock collectors to inform DEFA within 7 days of collection of the animal of the ear tag number of the animal and the holding of collection presents a barrier to the effective operation of the AWPP.

The current obligation on deadstock collectors does not provide a robust check of non-compliance by farmers – it is therefore considered ineffective and hence unnecessary

The current option of returning passports of older cattle through the AWPP provides an unnecessary choice for farmers and undermines the information provided elsewhere that they should return the passport to DEFA.

The potential for the loss of passport documents is much higher when moved with the carcase, and via the deadstock premises, compared to returning them directly by post.

Please note: the on-farm checks (Cattle Identification Inspections) undertaken by DEFA do provide the necessary and sufficient means to properly verify farm submissions and will therefore continue.

5. Responses to the consultation

Responses to this consultation should be submitted to the address above by **NOON on Friday 26th August 2016**.

6. Feedback to the consultation

6.1 It is important to note the draft Order has been prepared for the purposes of consultation and that further refinement may take place in the light of responses received.

6.2 Copies of this document may be downloaded from either the DEFA website at http://www.gov.im/daff/consultations.gov?menuid=16916&type=current or from the consultations webpage of the Isle of Man Government website at www.gov.im/consultations.gov

6.3 Should you require a paper copy of the consultation document then please contact DEFA at the postal or email address indicated below.

6.4 If you have any views or observations or there is some point of clarification you would like to receive in relation to the topics in this document or any other issue related to the subject of the consultation you are invited to respond in writing to:

6.5

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6.6 Unless specifically requested otherwise (see below), responses received may be published either in part or in their entirety, together with the name of the person or body submitting the response. If you are responding on behalf of a group it would be helpful to make your position clear. To ensure that the process is open and honest responses can only be accepted if you provide your full name with your response.

6.7 It may be useful when giving your feedback to make reference to the specific proposal(s) set out in the document that you wish to comment on/discuss.

6.8 The purpose of consultation is not to be a referendum. It is an information, views and evidence gathering exercise from which to take an informed decision on the content of proposed legislation or policy. As with any consultation exercise, the responses received do not guarantee changes will be made to what has been proposed.

6.9 **Confidentiality**
In line with DEFA's policy of openness, at the end of the consultation period copies of the responses we receive may be published in a summary of the responses to this consultation. **If you do not consent to this, you must clearly request that your response be treated as confidential.** Any confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system in email responses will not be treated as such a request. Respondents should also be aware that there may be circumstances in which DEFA will be required to communicate information to third parties on request, in order to comply with its obligations under the Freedom of Information Act 2015.

Review of

Cattle Identification Legislation

and its

Implementation on the Isle of Man

Dr Steve Webster

25th April 2016

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1. Background

1.1 Following an appeal within the Countryside Care Scheme in 2013, a recommendation was made that the legislation on cattle identification in the Isle of Man should be reviewed to ensure that it is both workable in a commercial sense and compliant with the Department's obligations on bovine traceability.

1.2 Article 3 of Regulation (EEC) No 706/73 of the Council of 12 March 1973 concerning the Community arrangements applicable to the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man for trade in agricultural products, states that, 'From 1 September 1973, the Community provisions in the following fields: veterinary legislation, animal health legislation, plant health legislation, marketing of seeds and seedlings, food legislation, feeding stuffs legislation, quality and marketing standards, shall apply under the same conditions as in the United Kingdom to the products referred to in Article 1 imported into the islands or exported from the islands to the Community.'

1.3 European Regulations surrounding the identification and registration of bovine animals were introduced following the BSE crisis, as a means to protect human and animal health and so improve confidence in the quality of beef and beef products and the stability of the beef market.

1.4 European Regulations surrounding the identification and registration of bovine animals were implemented on the Isle of Man through the Marketing and Cattle Records Order 1997, Cattle Passports Order 1997 and Cattle Database Order 1998, and were consolidated in the Bovine Identification and Traceability Order 2007 (BIT Order 2007). This Order was made in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 1, 6 and 56 of the Animal Health Act 1996 and offences defined within the BIT Order 2007 are defined as offences against section 46 of this Act.

1.5 Article 3 of (EC) No. 1760/2000 states that 'The system for the identification and registration of bovine animals shall comprise the following elements: (a) eartags to identify animals individually; (b) computerised databases; (c) animal passports; (d) individual registers kept on each holding.'

1.6 The Isle of Man Government, through the Department for Environment, Food and Agriculture (DEFA), implements a subsidy system within agriculture wherein farmers may receive payments based on the area of land farmed provided that they meet cross-compliance requirements.

1.7 Cross-compliance refers to compliance with the range of regulations and guidelines that are directly relevant to farming businesses, including the BIT Order 2007. By making subsidy payments contingent upon cross-compliance, they are seen to act as a means to encourage good practice. In the same way, the inclusion of regulations within cross-compliance should in most cases avoid the need to resort to legislative process and penalties. However, such processes and penalties remain available to the Department and may still be used where farmers are clearly not encouraged through cross-compliance.

1.8 The aim of this review is to examine in turn: (i) whether the Isle of Man legislation is compliant with the jurisdiction's obligations on traceability; and (ii) whether the legislation is workable in a commercial sense.

1.9 The outputs of this review are twofold: (i) a correlation table which matches the EU legislation to the relevant paragraphs in the BIT Order 2007 and; (ii) an examination of how the legislation is implemented on the Isle of Man.

2. Legislation

2.1 A review of the EU legislation regarding cattle identification and the matching Manx legislation was undertaken, including the following:

EU legislation

- **(EC) 1760/2000** of 17 July 2000 Establishing a system for the identification and registration of bovine animals and regarding the labelling of beef and beef products and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 820/97
- **(EC) 911/2004** of 29 April 2004 Implementing Regulation (EC) No 1760/2000 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards eartags, passports and holding registers
- **64/432/EEC** of 26 June 1964 On animal health problems affecting intra-Community trade in bovine animals and swine
- **(EC) 1082/2002** of 23 June 2003 Laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Regulation (EC) No 1760/2000 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the minimum level of controls to be carried out in the framework of the system for the identification and registration of bovine animals
- **(EC) 1034/2010** of 15 November 2010 Amending Regulation (EC) No 1082/2003 as regards checks concerning the requirements for the identification and registration of bovine animals
- **(EC) 494/98** of 27 February 1998 Laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 820/97 as regards the application of minimum administrative sanctions in the framework of the system for the identification and registration of bovine animals
- **(EU) 1053/1010** of 18 November 2010 Amending Regulation (EC) No 494/98 as regards administrative sanctions in cases of failure to prove the identification of an animal
- **(EC) 509/1999** of 8 March 1999 Extending the maximum period laid down for the application of eartags to bison (*Bison bison* spp)

Manx legislation

- **Statutory Document No. 223/07** The Bovine Identification and Traceability Order 2007, approved by Tynwald 17th April 2007

2.2 The correlation between EU legislation and the BIT Order 2007 is presented in the spreadsheet that accompanies this report. For the most part the EU and the Manx legislation correlates, and it is concluded that the Manx legislation is compliant with the jurisdiction's obligations on traceability.

2.3 There is one element of the Manx legislation which does not correspond to the EU legislation. Article 31 (8) of the BIT Order 2007 states that, 'Any person who collects any dead cattle which have been killed on a holding or died on a holding other than a slaughterhouse, shall notify the Department within 7 days of collection of the animal of the ear tag number of the animal and the holding of collection'.

2.4 There is nothing in the EU regulations regarding the systems for the identification and registration of bovine animals that requires the collectors of deadstock to inform the relevant authorities of any details of the animals so collected. That is, this element of the Manx legislation is peculiar to the Isle of Man and should the Manx legislature choose to remove Article 31 (8) of the BIT Order 2007 then there would be no impact on their compliance with EU legislation.

3. Implementation

Deadstock collection and reporting

3.1

3.2 The farmer contacts DEFA by telephone to inform of deadstock for collection or of cattle they wish to cull, providing the number and species of animals and for any bovine animals, the ear tag/passport number.

3.3 DEFA enters this data into an Access database, which outputs for AWPP a collection sheet for each farm that has requested deadstock collection. This sheet details the numbers of each species to be collected; and for cattle it provides information on their ear tag numbers and ages.

3.4 The AWPP collects deadstock and, optionally, cattle passports. Ear tag numbers may be, but are not necessarily, checked against the information provided by DEFA. In some cases, e.g. in hot weather, when animals have been dead for some time, and where there may be multiple animals together, significant decomposition may create difficulties in checking tags.

3.5 It is not necessary for farmers to be present at the point of deadstock collection but they may choose to be so.

3.6 Deadstock are transported to the AWPP, where they can be tipped directly into the rendering hoppers. In these cases, from the point of loading at farm collection there is no realistic possibility of further checks being made.

3.7 If any collected cattle are to be brain sampled, i.e. animals over 48 months of age of which DEFA has been informed, then these are not tipped directly to the hopper but are removed from the collection vehicle using a telehandler so that their heads can be removed and brain samples taken. Approximately 100 animals per year are brain sampled, out of total submissions of approximately 700 beasts. That is, between 1 and 2 loads every week will include animals that are to be brain sampled, whilst the remainder will not.

3.8 If DEFA requests that passports are to be returned, then farmers are obliged to do so. There is a strike-through choice on the collection sheet asking whether or not the passport has been collected. On the older style cattle passports, i.e. those issued up until February 2011, instructions were provided to send the passport with the fallen stock to the holding of destruction, as follows:

- ‘If the animal dies on a holding the notification of death must be completed by the keeper.
- In the case of on farm burial the Passport and Movement cards must be sent to the Cattle Passport Centre by the keeper within 7 days of the death.
- In all other cases the completed Passport and Movement cards must accompany the carcase to the holding of disposal. The Passport and Movement cards must be sent to the Cattle Passport Centre by the plant operator.’

3.9 The instructions within these older style passports provide explicit directions to producers that for deadstock collections the return of passports to DEFA should be via the AWPP. Although on-farm burial has not been allowed since February 2011, and farmers were made aware of this through directly mailed publicity, it would seem fair to assume that farmers would correctly interpret the instructions in these older passports as meaning that cattle collected by the knackers should be accompanied by their passports. It is estimated that around 6,500 of existing cattle passports are of the older style.

3.10 There is nothing within the EU regulations or in the BIT Order 2007 to suggest that passports should accompany deadstock to the holding of disposal. Indeed, Article 26(4) of the BIT Order 2007 states that, 'In the case of cattle which have died, the requirement for cattle to be accompanied by a passport shall not apply to the movement between the place where the cattle died and place of disposal, if such place of disposal is other than a slaughterhouse, provided that the keeper of cattle complies with article 9(1).'

3.11 Not all farmers choose to return passports in this way and the AWPP report that the numbers of passports that they handle is reducing. This may be due to lower numbers of older beasts with the old style wording on the passport itself, and the more prevalent instructions that the passports should be returned to DEFA.

3.12 On occasions the AWPP will be informed through DEFA of only one animal but will find, on arrival at a farm, that there are one or more additional animals for collection. These cattle will be taken by the AWPP and recorded as having been taken. If there are passports with these additional animals, then AWPP will take these and return them to DEFA. However, if there are no passports then it is possible that animals will be taken for rendering without farmers or the AWPP informing DEFA of these deaths or of the passport numbers. The AWPP do not necessarily record the eartags of these animals.

The BITS database

3.13 Article 3. of the BIT Order 2007 states that, 'The Department may make and maintain a database in respect of holdings and of births, importations, deaths, exportations and movements of cattle and of any associated information compiled from notifications required to be made under this Order'.

3.14 Two databases are operated within DEFA:

(i) A database for recording fallen stock information provided by farmers, by telephone; and the transmission of this information to the AWPP.
(ii) The Bovine Identification and Traceability System (BITS) database, which is accessible by DEFA and by passport holders, and which forms the means of recording notifications of births, deaths, movements, imports and exports as required by Article 3.

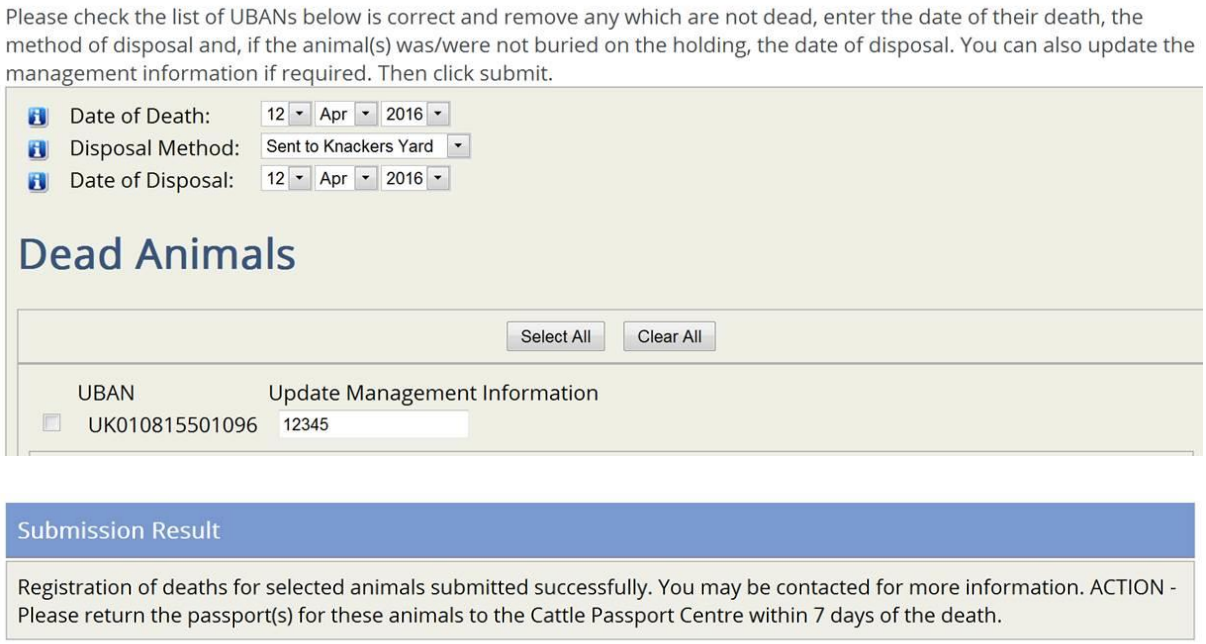
3.15 The two databases are operated separately. Informing DEFA of fallen stock for collection does not lead to a record being made on the BITS database. This makes operational sense, since there is no mutually agreed record of the verbal notification at this point, and the notification of fallen stock does not create a bureaucratic barrier to reporting.

3.16 Article 5. (1) of the BIT Order 2007 states that, 'The Department may authorise any person to make notifications by electronic means rather than by post'. Article 7. determines that the notification of birth shall be by application for cattle passport. Article 8. determines that movements on or off a holding shall be by electronic means or by means of posting a movement card.

3.17 Article 9. (1) of the BIT Order 2007 states that, 'The keeper of cattle on a holding shall ensure that, in respect of the death of any cattle, the Department is notified within seven days of such death, either by surrendering the appropriately completed passport to the Department or electronically, provided that the appropriately completed passport is subsequently surrendered on demand.'

3.18 If farmers are registered to make electronic notifications, then they will first of all make their own record on the BITS database of any cattle deaths. This record will remain 'open' until the passport is received by DEFA, at which point a further record will be made on the BITS database and the notification is complete.

3.19 The following screen from the BITS database demonstrates the key elements of the system for notifications of deaths. The individual passport numbers (UBANS) are pre-loaded, and farmers provide notifications by selecting the date of death, date of disposal, method of disposal and the UBAN. Subsequent to this a reminder is presented that passports should be returned to the Cattle Passport Centre within 7 days of death.



3.20 If farmers are not registered for electronic notification then they will simply return the completed passport and DEFA, who will make records on the BITS database to complete the notification.

3.21 The use of electronic notification has been encouraged through a differential pricing structure, within which a flat-rate fee is applied for postal users (for herd sizes of 1-50 animals, a fee of £100; for herd sizes of 51-149, a fee of £200; and for herd sizes of 150 or more, a fee of £400), and no fee for online users. The differential pricing model was introduced in 2014 and had led to an increase from 54% of births registered online in 2014 to 87% of births registered online in 2015.

Cattle identification inspections

3.22 Article 2 of EC 1082/2003, as amended by (EU) 1034/2010, states that '(1) The competent authority shall carry out checks each year which shall cover at least 3% of holdings,' and '(3) The selection of holdings to be inspected by the competent authority shall be made on the basis of risk analysis.' Article 4 of that same legislation provides the information to be taken into account within such risk analysis, and includes, amongst other things, the number of animals on the holding, public and animal health considerations, the results of checks conducted in earlier years including the proper keeping of the holding register and the proper keeping of passports and the proper communication of data to the competent authority.

3.23 Article 36 (1) of the BIT Order 2007 states that, 'The Department or an authorised officer may require persons to furnish such passports, records and other documents as are required to be kept under this Order'.

3.24 Notification by farmers is policed through the on-farm inspection by DEFA of 5% of cattle holdings per year (equivalent on the Isle of Man to around 14 holdings); a level of inspection compliant with Article 2 of EC 1082/2003.

3.25 Details of the inspection process are provided on the Isle of Man government website, as follows: 'To ensure effectiveness there is a system of inspections, known as 'Cattle Identification Inspections' ('CIIs') – to check that the rules are being followed. CIIs commenced on the Island in 2003. The purpose of these inspections is to examine cattle, their eartags, passports and the farm records to check that all cattle identification requirements are being met. Farm records can be in computer form or movement record books. Inspections will not normally be announced more than 48 hours in advance.

The inspector will check:

- Farm records to determine which animals are present on the holding
- That births, movements and deaths have been correctly recorded
- That all animals are correctly tagged, and match the animal's passport
- That all animals are present and correct
- That deadlines for identifying cattle and keeping records have been met
- That all passports for animals disposed of have been passed on to the new owner or returned to the Cattle Passport Centre

Farms are selected on a basis of 'risk analysis' (i.e. late birth applications, errors on birth applications, discrepancies found at the Meat Plant). You are likely to be inspected more frequently if problems have been found during a previous inspection.'

3.26 Because of the small number of livestock farms on the Isle of Man, it is possible for individual farms to skew inspection results more markedly than in larger jurisdictions.

SMR 6 within cross-compliance

3.27 The Agricultural Development Scheme 2015 replaced and consolidated the Countryside Care Scheme 2009. The purpose of the Scheme is described in Article 1 (2) as follows: '(2) The objective of this Scheme is to create a credible, practical and effective decoupled support Scheme as the foundation for a thriving, diverse Manx agricultural industry whilst protecting the Isle of Man's landscape and natural heritage and maintaining its productive capacity.'

3.28 The Scheme includes that penalties may be applied for failure to meet cross compliance standards. Article 8 states that, '(1) Where an applicant fails to meet the conditions set down in the Cross Compliance Standards Guidance Document1, penalties must be applied. (2) Penalties in respect of failures are stipulated in the Cross Compliance Penalty Document2.'

3.29 Of the Statutory Management Requirements (SMRs) included within the Cross Compliance Standards Document, SMR 6 is relevant and states: 'You must comply with the domestic legislation regarding the identification, registration and traceability of animals, including sheep, goats, pigs, cattle and meat products, including where appropriate:

- keeper registration
- registration of animals
- ear tag identification
- record keeping
- the recording of animal movements.

By following the existing or subsequently amended animal identification, registration and traceability legislation, you are complying with this SMR.'

3.30 To this end, a penalty applied within the Agricultural Development Scheme is a 'soft measure' to encourage compliance. A small reduction in subsidy levels for any first offence can be compared to the penalties that would be applied under the Animal Health Act 1996.

3.31 Article 49 of the Animal Health Act 1996 states that ' (1) A person guilty of an offence against this Act for which a penalty is not provided by any other provision of this Act shall be liable on summary conviction — (a) to a fine not exceeding £5,000; or (b) if the offence is committed with respect to more than 10 animals, to a fine not exceeding £1,000 for each animal; or (c) where the offence is committed in relation to carcases, fodder, litter, excrement or other thing (exclusive of animals), to a fine not exceeding £1,000 in respect of every 500 kilograms in weight thereof after the first 500 kilograms in addition to the first fine not exceeding £5,000.'

How many dead cattle remain unreported?

3.32 The AWPP maintain a record for each farm of the total numbers of animals collected, by species and category, and this is used for invoicing purposes. These records can be compared to the information on cattle deaths provided to DEFA by farmers.

3.33 The AWPP collected 2,242 bovines in 2015, compared to 2,126 bovines that were reported to DEFA through the Fallen Stock Helpline. That is, approximately 5% of deadstock collected are not first reported to DEFA.

3.34 In the same period farmers reported, either electronically on the BITS 2007 database or by return of passports, the deaths of 1,817 bovines. That is, farmers appeared to fail to properly report the deaths of 19% of bovines that were collected by AWPP.

3.35

Should AWPP be obliged to inform DEFA of ear tag numbers?

3.36 Article 31. (8) of the BIT Order 2007 states, 'Any person who collects any dead cattle which have been killed on a holding or died on a holding other than a slaughterhouse, shall notify the Department within 7 days of collection of the animal of the ear tag number of the animal and the holding of collection.' As noted in Chapter 2, this requirement is peculiar to the Isle of Man and is unnecessary for compliance with the EU regulations.

3.37 The obligation on farmers to notify DEFA of cattle deaths, and to return cattle passports, is separate to and remains intact regardless of AWPP's obligation to inform DEFA.

3.38 The collection of cattle for rendering is an animal-health issue, and the AWPP should not be hindered from collecting cattle which farmers have failed to inform DEFA of the death of. That is, deadstock should be collected as soon as possible after death; and time is of the essence when cattle are to be destroyed because they are in pain or suffering. Barriers to the rapid, humane despatch of cull animals should be avoided where possible.

3.39 On a purely practical basis, transcription of cattle identification numbers from the field is likely to be prone to errors to a greater extent than transcription in a sheltered environment.

3.40 If it is wished that the AWPP should collect data to validate and check the data on cattle deaths provided to DEFA by farmers, then the form of this data collection should be automated as far as is possible so as to avoid transcribing errors e.g. using bar coded eartags and electronic readers, or EID, or

simply by collection of a photograph of the eartags, where possible. Such automation could feasibly allow for a more accurate, real-time reporting to DEFA to validate farmer submissions. For cattle without legible tags / with missing tags, a simple record of 'unknown animal' could be submitted.

3.41 However, the advantages of operating this additional check are minimal. The on-farm inspections undertaken by DEFA provide the necessary baseline review of how well farmers are implementing cattle identification process. Additional checks on eartags provided by AWPP would not provide significant additional insight over and above that provided by their reporting of gross numbers of cattle collected and invoiced.

Should AWPP be obliged to inform farmers of the ear tag numbers of the deadstock they collect?

3.42 There is nothing within the EU regulations on cattle identification or within the Manx implementing legislation that obliges the AWPP, or DEFA, to provide to farmers any data on the ear tag numbers of bovines collected as deadstock.

3.43 If farmers wish to check the numbers of deadstock collected in order to ensure that they are only invoiced for those animals which have a) died and b) been collected, then they might consider: i) keeping proper records, as required under the legislation and ii) using the records held by DEFA of deaths reported to them.

3.44 Ultimately, if farmers wish to ensure that they are only invoiced for animals they know to have died and been collected by the AWPP, they can choose to await the collection of their deadstock and ask AWPP to sign to confirm the quantities that they have removed, as they are removed.

4. This page is intentionally left blank and the content is subject to data protection.

5. Conclusions

5.1 The legislation in place on the Isle of Man is compliant with DEFA's obligations on bovine identification and traceability. That part of the legislation which applies to farmers is fully workable and for the most part it is successfully applied by beef and dairy farmers.

5.2 The requirement within the BIT Order 2007 for deadstock collectors to inform DEFA within 7 days of collection of the animal of the ear tag number of the animal and the holding of collection does not correlate with the requirements of the relevant EU legislation and presents a barrier to the effective operation of the AWPP. Moreover, it does not provide a robust check of non-compliance by farmers, whereas the on-farm checks (Cattle Identification Inspections) undertaken by DEFA provide the necessary and sufficient means to properly verify farm submissions. **The BIT Order 2007 should therefore be amended to remove paragraph 31 (8).**

5.3 The option of returning passports of older cattle through the AWPP provides an unnecessary choice for farmers and undermines the information provided elsewhere that they should return the passport to DEFA. Reporting will be improved if it is made more streamlined, with the means of informing DEFA limited to electronic reporting and paper-based return of passports directly to the DEFA offices. Ideally, no passports should be submitted via the AWPP. **The AWPP should consider implementing a 'no passports policy', and with DEFA move to a system whereby passports can only be returned by post.**

5.4 If AWPP is to be required to collect eartag information for either DEFA or livestock producers, then such data collection should as far as possible be automated as a guard against transcription errors and so as to simplify operations in the field. Whilst the beneficiaries of such information collection will be livestock producers, AWPP should consider charging for these services.

Statutory Document No. XX/20XX

Animal Health Act 1996

BOVINE IDENTIFICATION AND TRACEABILITY (AMENDMENT) ORDER 2016

Approved by Tynwald:
Coming into Operation: *1 November 2016*

The Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture makes the following Order under sections 1, 6 and 56 of the Animal Health Act 1996.

1 Title

This Order is the Bovine Identification and Traceability (Amendment) Order 2016.

2 Commencement

If approved by Tynwald, this Order comes into operation on 1 November 2016.

3 Amendment of the Bovine Identification and Traceability Order 2007

(1) The Bovine Identification and Traceability Order 2007[1] is amended in accordance with the following paragraph.

(2) Omit article 38(1).

MADE

RICHARD RONAN
Minister for Environment, Food and Agriculture

[1] SD 223/07

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Order)

This Order removes the requirement for collectors of dead stock to inform the Department of collection of such dead stock ensuring the onus for notification of cattle deaths remains with the keeper of the animal in question. This, therefore, clarifies the process for the reporting of information in relation to dead stock which is required for bovine identification and traceability and which has to be undertaken by the keeper within 7 days of the date of death.