

Animal and Plant Health Agency

Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency (APHA) is the government's executive agency primarily responsible for safeguarding animal health and welfare, protecting public health, food chain security and the economy. Liaison with animal health is covered by the Greater Manchester MOU for Management of incidents and outbreaks of zoonotic diseases in Greater Manchester.

A key role is to implement government policies aimed at preventing and/ or managing outbreaks of serious animal diseases and, in doing so, support the farming industry, protect the welfare of farmed animals and safeguard public health from animal borne disease.

APHA are charged with managing the economic and public health risks arising from animal disease. A vital part of their role is to implement and enforce specific national legislation and European Union regulations relating to the control and eradication of animal diseases. Certain animal diseases are termed 'notifiable' as they must be reported to APHA if a case is suspected. This would trigger measures to try and control any confirmed outbreak.

Some diseases are continually present (endemic) in Great Britain, such as Tuberculosis in cattle and Scrapie in sheep. Others that may enter Britain from abroad are termed exotic because they are not normally present in the country. These include Foot and Mouth disease, Swine Fever, Avian Influenza and Rabies.

APHA operates surveillance programmes to detect reportable diseases and will investigate all suspected cases. When notifiable diseases are confirmed they organise the slaughter and disposal of infected animals and test any other stock that might have had contact with the disease.

Movement restrictions may be imposed and surveillance zones established to prevent further spread until the disease has been controlled. If the disease is exotic, they may implement their contingency plan to manage the outbreak. They also undertake epidemiological investigations to identify the source of disease and how it is spreading.

In addition to that described above, for other incidents APHA will work alongside regional and local operational partners providing advice on animal health issues where appropriate.

British Transport Police

British Transport Police plays a role akin to Greater Manchester Police, albeit in a more specialist environment. The force takes responsibility for the investigation/ management of all crime/incidents (except terrorism) occurring upon the rail infrastructure nationally. The Force deals with Network Rail, Train Operating Companies (TOC) and Freight Operating Companies (FOC) and where necessary, may facilitate any investigation/enquiry with the Rail Accident Investigation Branch (RAIB). The Force has specialist assets placed strategically around the country such as Incident Command Units, Major Incident Trailers, CBRN, SECCO, POLSA and Search / ESD resources.