

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON
DANGEROUS PATHOGENS**

**ANNUAL REPORT
(JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2004)**

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1 INTRODUCTION

1. The Advisory Committee on Dangerous Pathogens (ACDP) is a non-statutory advisory non-Departmental Public Body. The Committee comprises a Chairman and approximately 15 members. The membership is tripartite, with scientific experts, employer and employee representatives.

2. The work of the ACDP cuts across a number of Government Departments so at the start of 2004 the Committee was being supported by a Secretariat with representatives from the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), the Department of Health (DH) and the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). (Towards the end of 2004 the Secretariat role moved from DH to the Health Protection Agency (HPA); the other two members of the Secretariat did not change.)

3. In 2004 the ACDP held two meetings (the 76th on the 22nd March and the 78th on the 14th September) and cancelled one meeting (the 77th due in June).

4. In addition, a number of the ACDP's working groups met throughout the year

- the Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy Working Group (TSE WG) met on 16th January, 12th May and 12th October;
- the Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) Occupational Guidance Drafting Group met on 2nd March, 11th May, 1st July, 9th September and 18th November;
- there was an *ad hoc* meeting of the Pets Travel Scheme (PETS) Working Group on 18th February,
- the Managing the Risks Drafting Group met on 17th February and 20th May; and
- the Containment Level 4 (CL4) Working Group was reconstituted on 13th December.

5. By 2004 Professor Roger Whittenbury had resigned from his post as Chair of ACDP due to ill-health, so the Committee welcomed Professor Roger Freeman as his temporary replacement. Sadly Professor Freeman died in June 2004 just as a new permanent Chair was being recruited. Professor George Griffin joined ACDP as the new Chair at the September meeting, also taking over as Chair of the CL4 Working Group.

6. Several ACDP members were invited to extend their term on the Committee in September 2004.

- Professor Colin Howard, Professor Will Irving, Mr Gordon Sutehall and Ms Sue Wiseman had their membership extended for a further three years.
- Ms Pam Smith had her membership extended for a further two years (taking her to the maximum ten years that a member can sit on ACDP).

2 TERMS OF REFERENCE

7. The Advisory Committee on Dangerous Pathogens' terms of reference are:

“To advise the Health and Safety Commission, the Health and Safety Executive, Health and Agriculture Ministers and their counterparts under devolution in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, as required, on all aspects of hazards and risks to workers and others from exposure to pathogens.”

3 DANGEROUS PATHOGENS

3.1 Background

8. The remit of ACDP is to provide advice to workers and others on risks from exposure to dangerous pathogens (also known as biological agents and infectious agents). Workers and others can be exposed to a range of dangerous pathogens in the workplace and through workplace activities.

9. Bacteria, fungi, viruses, internal parasites and infectious proteins (known as prions) are all defined as dangerous pathogens. Dangerous pathogens may be used intentionally at work, eg in a microbiology laboratory, but exposure can also occur that is incidental to the purpose of the work, eg healthcare workers exposed to infectious patients, farmers exposed to diseases carried by their stock. Exposure to dangerous pathogens in the workplace could lead to the development of infectious disease, disease caused by the toxins produced by the dangerous pathogen, or an allergic reaction.

3.2 Legislation

10. Dangerous pathogens include infectious agents that cause diseases transmissible between animals and man (zoonoses). Such agents are controlled under both human health (DH/HPA remit), health and safety (HSE remit), and animal health legislation (Defra remit). (The primary purpose of the latter legislation is to prevent the introduction and spread of animal diseases that affect farmed livestock and poultry.)

11. One of ACDP's roles is to advise on worker health and safety, and much of its advice supports health and safety legislation on the control of exposure to hazardous substances such as dangerous pathogens. Health and safety legislation (principally the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health [COSHH] Regulations 2002 (as amended)) requires employers to assess the risks from dangerous pathogens in their workplace and to prevent or control exposure. Further information can be obtained from the HSE website (<http://www.hse.gov.uk/biosafety/index.htm>).

12. Defra seeks to control imports of animal pathogens and carriers from third countries under the Importation of Animal Pathogens Order 1980, and animal pathogens causing serious, predominantly exotic, diseases of farmed livestock and poultry under the Specified Animal Pathogens Order 1998 by means of licensing regimes. Further information can be obtained from Defra's website (<http://www.defra.gov.uk/>).

13. There are various pieces of legislation covering public health, further information on these can be obtained from the DH website (<http://www.dh.gov.uk/Home/fs/en>).

3.3 Role of the ACDP

14. ACDP has advised Government on wider issues such as contingency plans for infectious disease (eg 'flu, bat lyssavirus [rabies]) and specific issues (eg waste management advice for individual activities).

15. As part of its role in providing advice on worker health and safety the ACDP publishes advice and guidance on working with dangerous pathogens, eg *Infection at Work: Controlling the Risk*, *TSE agents: Safe working and the prevention of infection*. Information on the range of publications available from the ACDP can be found at

<http://www.advisorybodies.doh.gov.uk/acdp/publications.htm>

4 MEMBERSHIP FROM JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2004

Advisory Committee on Dangerous Pathogens

| Independent member | Expert/Employer/ Employee representative | Employer |
|--|---|--|
| Professor Roger Freeman (Acting Chair from January to June 2004) | Expert in clinical microbiology and infectious diseases | Newcastle General Hospital |
| Professor George Griffin (Chair from September 2004) | Expert in clinical and research microbiology and infectious diseases | St George's Hospital Medical School |
| Professor Ray Dixon | Expert in clinical/research bacteriology | John Innes Centre |
| Professor Tony Hart | Employer representative | University of Liverpool |
| Professor Colin Howard | Expert in veterinary microbiology/ parasitology | The Royal Veterinary College |
| Professor Will Irving | Expert in clinical virology | University of Nottingham |
| Dr Phil Jones | Expert in environmental/ veterinary microbiology | Institute for Animal Health |
| Mr John Keddle | Employer representative | GlaxoSmithKline |
| Dr Phil Minor | Expert in research virology | National Institute of Biological Standards and Control (NIBSC) |
| Dr Mike Painter | Expert in epidemiology, public health medicine and communicable disease control | Health Protection Agency (HPA) |
| Ms Pam Smith | Employee representative | Royal Hampshire County Hospital |
| Mr Gordon Sutehall | Expert in biomedical and medical laboratory science/ laboratory health and safety | Clinical Microbiology and Public Health Laboratory, Addenbrooke's Hospital |
| Dr Diana Westmoreland | Expert in medical virology and infectious disease control | University Hospital of Wales |
| Dr Peter Wilson | Employer representative | St Andrew's Hospital |
| Ms Sue Wiseman | Employee representative | Dorset County Hospital |
| 2 vacancies | Employer and employee representatives | |

| Assessors and observers | Representing |
|-------------------------|--|
| Dr Tim Brooks | HPA, Porton |
| Mrs Morwenna Carrington | Defra |
| Professor Brian Duerden | DH (Inspector of Microbiology) |
| Ms Delyth Dyne | HSE |
| Ms Christine Elmer | Defra |
| Mr Greg Jordinson | Environment Agency |
| Dr Aileen Keel | Scottish Executive |
| Dr Kerri Mack | Defence, Science and Technology Laboratory (DSTL) |
| Mr Paul Manser | Defra |
| Mr John Newbold | HSE |
| Professor Charles Penn | HPA |
| Mr David Redwood | Veterinary Laboratory Agency (VLA), Defra |
| Dr Roland Salmon | National Public Health Service for Wales |
| Dr Delia Skan | Health and Safety Executive, Northern Ireland (HSE NI) |
| Ms Maggie Tomlinson | DH |
| Dr Ailsa Wight | DH |
| Mr Alan Williams | Defra |

| Secretariat | Representing |
|----------------------|--------------|
| Mr Gary Clements | DH |
| Miss Hannah Lewis | DH |
| Ms Kim Norman | DH |
| Ms Madeleine Garlick | HSE |
| Mrs Sarah Senior | HSE |
| Mr Philip Annetts | Defra |
| Miss Papia Khanom | Defra |
| Dr Isobel Rosenstein | HPA |

Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy Working Group

| Member | ACDP/Independent representative | Employer |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| Professor Don Jeffries (Chair) | Ex-ACDP | St. Bartholomew's Hospital |
| Mr Ray Bradley | Independent representative | Ex-VLA (retired) |
| Mr John Goodman | Employer representative | Meat and Livestock Commission (MLC) |
| Professor James Ironside | Independent representative | National CJD Surveillance Unit |
| Dr Phil Jones | ACDP member | Institute for Animal Health |
| Dr Mike Painter | ACDP member | HPA |
| Dr Geoff Ridgway | Independent representative | Ex-University College London and DH (retired) |
| Dr Roland Salmon | ACDP assessor | National Public Health Service for Wales |
| Professor Peter Smith | Independent representative | London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine |
| Mr Ron Spellman | Employee representative | Unison |
| Dr Tim Wyatt | Independent representative | Mater Hospital Trust, NI |

| Government officials | Representing |
|----------------------|---|
| Mr Ian Aitken | Rural Payments Agency (RPA) |
| Dr Peter Bennett | DH |
| Dr Catherine Boyle | Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee (SEAC) Secretariat (Defra) |
| Dr Peter Christie | Scottish Executive |
| Dr Nicky Connor | CJD Incidents Panel (HPA) |
| Ms Adrienne Conroy | Food Standards Agency (FSA) |
| Dr Philippa Edwards | DH |
| Mr Alan Hilderley | Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) |
| Dr Jim Hope | VLA |
| Miss Sarah Jackson | Meat Hygiene Service (MHS) |
| Mr Greg Jordinson | EA |
| Dr Kate Soldan | CJD Incidents Panel (HPA) |
| Dr Danny Mathews | VLA |
| Ms Val O'Brien | NHS Estates (DH) |
| Dr Patrick Seechurn | HSE |
| Mr Peter Soul | Defra |
| Dr John Stephenson | DH |
| Mr Nigel Tomlinson | NHS Estates (DH) |
| Dr Ailsa Wight | DH |

| Secretariat | Representing |
|----------------------|--------------|
| Mr Gary Clements | DH |
| Ms Hannah Lewis | DH |
| Ms Kim Norman | DH |
| Mrs Sarah Senior | HSE |
| Ms Madeleine Garlick | HSE |

Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy Occupational Guidance Drafting Group

| Member | ACDP/Independent representative | Employer |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Mrs Sarah Senior (Chair) | ACDP Secretariat | HSE |
| Mr Ray Bradley | TSE WG member | Ex-VLA (retired) |
| Mr John Goodman | TSE WG & employer representative | MLC |
| Professor Don Jeffries | TSE WG Chair | St. Bartholomew's Hospital |
| Dr Phil Jones | ACDP and TSE WG member | Institute for Animal Health |
| Dr Danny Mathews | TSE WG official | VLA |
| Mr Ron Spellman | TSE WG & employee representative | Unison |

| Government officials | Representing |
|----------------------|--------------|
| Mr Gary Clements | DH |
| Mr Brian Coggans | HSE |
| Ms Adrienne Conroy | FSA |
| Ms Sarah Jackson | MHS |
| Ms Hannah Lewis | DH |
| Mr Andrew Love | MHS |
| Dr Patrick Seechurn | HSE |
| Ms Sharon Slater | RPA |
| Mr Peter Soul | Defra |

| Secretariat | Representing |
|----------------------|--------------|
| Ms Madeleine Garlick | HSE |

Managing the Risks Drafting Group

| Member | ACDP/Independent representative | Employer |
|-------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| Mr John Newbold (Chair) | ACDP observer | HSE |
| Dr Malcom Bennett | Independent representative – safety advisor | University of Liverpool |
| Ms Anne Harris | Ex-ACDP – employer representative | Retired (formerly of GlaxoSmithKline) |
| Dr Bruce Jones | Independent representative – Biological Safety Officer | NIBSC |
| Dr Kerri Mack | ACDP assessor - Biological Safety Officer | DSTL |
| Dr Janice Main | Independent representative – infectious disease consultant | St. Mary's NHS Trust |
| Ms Janet McCulloch | Ex-ACDP member – employee representative | Wiltshire Health Protection Unit, HPA |
| Mr Paul Tearle | Independent representative – safety advisor | HPA |
| Dr Tim Wyatt | Independent representative | Mater Hospital Trust, NI |

| Government officials | Representing |
|----------------------|--------------|
| Dr Will Pascoe | HSE |

| Secretariat | Representing |
|------------------|--------------|
| Ms Jillian Deans | HSE |

Pets Travel Scheme Working Group

| Member | ACDP/Independent representative | Employer |
|---------------------------------|---|--|
| Professor Roger Freeman (Chair) | Acting ACDP Chair | Newcastle General Hospital |
| Dr Barbara Bannister | Ex-ACDP & independent consultant in communicable diseases | Royal Free Hospital |
| Professor Tony Hart | ACDP member | University of Liverpool |
| Dr Phil Jones | ACDP member | Institute for Animal Health |
| Dr Tim Wyatt | Independent representative | Mater Hospital Trust, Belfast |
| Dr Roland Salmon | ACDP assessor | National Public Health Service for Wales |

| Government officials | Representing |
|----------------------|--------------|
| Mr Andrew Baxter | Defra |
| Dr Tony Fooks | VLA |
| Dr Paul Manser | Defra |
| Mrs Sarah Senior | HSE |
| Ms Maggie Tomlinson | DH |

| Secretariat | Representing |
|-----------------|--------------|
| Ms Hannah Lewis | DH |
| Ms Kim Norman | DH |

Containment Level 4 Working Group

| Member | ACDP/Independent representative | Employer |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| Professor George Griffin (Chair) | ACDP Chair | St George's Hospital Medical School |
| Mr Malcom Broster | Independent member | DSTL |
| Dr Gary Burns | Independent member | AstraZeneca Plc |
| Mr Simon Caiden | Independent member | National Institute for Medical Research |
| Dr Sally Franklin | Independent member | NIBSC |
| Dr Robin Ghopal | Independent member | HPA |
| Professor Colin Howard | ACDP member | The Royal Veterinary College |
| Dr Phil Jones | ACDP member | Institute for Animal Health |
| Dr Steve Lever | Independent member | DSTL |
| Dr Graham Lloyd | Independent member | Centre for Emergency Preparedness and Response, HPA |

| Government Officials | Representing |
|----------------------|--------------|
| Ms Delyth Dyne | HSE |
| Mr Paul Manser | Defra |

| Secretariat | Representing |
|-----------------|--------------|
| Dr Paul Heeney | HSE |
| Mr John Newbold | HSE |
| Mr Lee Wilson | HSE |

5 KEY ISSUES DISCUSSED BY ACDP

16. The ACDP met on two occasions in 2004 – the 76th meeting on the 22nd March and the 78th meeting on the 14th September. In addition a Secretariat Report was produced in the place of one meeting (the 77th).

5.1 76TH MEETING

17. At the 76th meeting on the 22nd March members discussed:

- The classification of Akabane virus:
Akabane virus is currently classified as Hazard Group 3, and members discussed the possibility of working with the virus at a lower containment level. Members recommended anyone wishing to work with Akabane virus should conduct a local risk assessment to decide the containment measures required, rather than reclassifying the virus.
- ACDP advice on working with highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) virus in laboratories:
ACDP reviewed its advice on working with HPAI (published on the HSE website at <http://www.hse.gov.uk/biosafety/diseases/avianflu.htm>) at the request of the National Expert Panel on New and Emerging Infections (NepNei). Members concluded that despite the recent outbreaks of HPAI in Asia their advice was still appropriate and did not need revising.
- Horizon scanning:
Members reviewed the horizon scanning paper produced at the request of the Health and Safety Commission in 2001. The paper was updated to include references to the SARS and SE Asia HPAI outbreaks. The ACDP Chair then presented the updated paper to NepNei.
- The changing status of the Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy (TSE) Working Group:
Members agreed the revised terms of reference (see Section 6.1) for the TSE Working Group following the decoupling of the Group from the Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee (SEAC).
- New information for the TSE guidance on brain biopsy:
Members agreed that the Chief Medical Officer's protocol for instruments used in brain biopsy (http://www.dh.gov.uk/PublicationsAndStatistics/LettersAndCirculars/ProfessionalLetters/ChiefMedicalOfficerLetters/ChiefMedicalOfficerLettersArticle/fs/en?CONTENT_ID=4082719&chk=ux4zA2) could be published on the TSE Guidance website in conjunction with their advice in that guidance.

5.2 77TH MEETING

18. The extended Secretariat Report for the 77th meeting, issued in June 2004, provided members with the Minutes from the 76th meeting, along with copies of Minutes from

- the latest Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy (TSE) Working Group meeting,
- the Pets Travel Scheme (PETS) Working Group meeting,
- the Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) Occupational Guidance Drafting Group meeting,
- the Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee (SEAC),
- the Expert Advisory Group on AIDS (EAGA) meeting, and
- the first meeting of the National Expert Panel on New and Emerging Infections (NepNei).

5.3 78TH MEETING

19. At the 78th meeting on the 14th September members discussed:

- A new annex (A.2) for the Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy (TSE) guidance on the distribution of infectivity in animal tissue and body fluids:
Members approved the content of the annex and recommended it for Ministerial approval to publish with the rest of the TSE guidance (http://www.dh.gov.uk/PolicyAndGuidance/HealthAndSocialCareTopics/CJD/CJDGeneralInformation/CJDGeneralArticle/fs/en?CONTENT_ID=4031067&chk=4gOe2r).
- A revised Annex (F) for the TSE guidance on endoscopes:
Members also approved the content of this annex and recommended it for Ministerial approval and publication (see above for link to TSE Guidance).
- The draft ACDP guidance '*Managing the Risks in the Laboratory and Healthcare Premises*':
Members approved the guidance for publication as an electronic only document on the ACDP website (<http://www.hse.gov.uk/biosafety/biologagents.pdf>).
- The draft Health and Safety Executive (HSE) guidance '*Infection at Work: Controlling the Risks from Human Remains*':
Members provided comments on the guidance, which HSE used to help finalise it. The guidance is published as an electronic only document on the HSE website (<http://www.hse.gov.uk/biosafety/funeraldoc.pdf>).
- Interim guidance for abattoir workers:
Members approved interim advice on controlling the risk from BSE in the event of the Over Thirty Month (OTM) Rule being revised (see Food Standards Agency website for more information - <http://www.food.gov.uk/foodindustry/meat/otmreview/>). Members agreed the guidance could be published when the new regime is introduced.
- The UK Health Departments' contingency plan for Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS):
Members were given the opportunity to provide DH with comments on the plan.
- An update of the DH work on rabies.
- An ACDP work plan for 2005/06:
Members agreed their work plan for the next year.

6 ACDP WORKING GROUPS

6.1 TRANSMISSIBLE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY WORKING GROUP (TSE WG)

20. The reconfigured TSE WG first met in 2004, having evolved from the TSE Joint Working Group (TSE JWG) of the ACDP and Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee (SEAC). In SEAC's quinquennial review it was decided to uncouple the TSE JWG, allowing SEAC to focus on providing risk assessment advice to Government and ACDP on risk management. As the TSE JWG's work was primarily risk management, it was decided that it should become a working group of ACDP keeping the existing membership of the JWG. Under the continuing chairmanship of Professor Don Jeffries the new TSE WG undertook to continue the work of the JWG.

21. The TSE WG terms of reference were revised in 2004 to reflect the decoupling of the Group from SEAC. The terms of reference were amended to:

“To provide practical, scientifically based advice on the management of risks from transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSEs), in order to limit or reduce the risks of human exposure to or transmission of TSEs in healthcare and other occupational settings. To provide advice to ACDP, SEAC and Government Departments, as requested, and to handle issues referred by those bodies, taking into account the work of other relevant bodies.”

22. The TSE WG received an update on the numbers and epidemiology of both CJD and BSE cases at each meeting in 2004. Members also received feedback from related committees, eg SEAC and The CJD Incidents Panel, and a progress report on current research.

23. 1st Meeting – 16th January 2004:

At this meeting members:

- were updated on the uncoupling of the TSE Joint Working Group from SEAC and the role of the reconstituted Working Group. Proposals for revised terms of reference were discussed;
- were updated on the current position on publication of various sections of the revised TSE Guidance (*Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy Agents: Safe working and the prevention of infection*) and considered a draft Annex (A.2) on “The Distribution of Infectivity in Animal Tissue and Body Fluids”. They also agreed that a link to the Chief Medical Officer's (CMO's) protocol for “The Management of Instruments and Tissues from Brain Biopsy Procedures on Patients with Progressive Neurological Disorder” should be added to the TSE Guidance webpage;
- discussed apparent differences in approach to dealing with corpses of CJD patients of some undertakers and the advice in the TSE Guidance. It was agreed that the advice in the TSE Guidance was appropriate, but that awareness of this guidance needed to be raised;

- discussed draft interim ACDP guidance for abattoir workers processing cattle born after 1 August 1996, following a review of the Over Thirty Month Scheme (OTMS); and
- discussed DH guidance for specialist neurological centres on infection control for stereotactic frames.

24.2nd Meeting – 12th May 2004:

At this meeting members:

- agreed revised Terms of Reference (see above);
- commented on the latest draft of the ACDP's interim guidance for abattoir workers. This was agreed, subject to minor amendments, as suitable for publication when required, dependent on the timing of the implementation of changes to the OTMS;
- agreed a final version of Annex A.2 for the TSE Guidance. This was published shortly after the meeting. They also discussed the format and content of a further Annex on decontamination of specialised equipment; and
- discussed the cleaning and decontamination of gastroscopes, fibrescopes and nasal endoscopes, and considered draft protocols for the use of a dedicated vCJD gastroscope and a dedicated vCJD fibrescope.

25.3rd Meeting – 12th October 2004:

At this meeting members:

- were updated on progress in preparing the “Decontamination of Specialist Equipment” Annex to the TSE Guidance, and identified a number of items of equipment (in addition to ventilators and dialysis equipment) for possible inclusion in this Annex;
- were advised that the revised Annex F of the TSE Guidance (Decontamination of Endoscopes), to include advice on neuro- and nasal endoscopes, had received the necessary approval to publish. They were also advised that the *ad hoc* Endoscope Working Group had made further recommendations on endoscopes used solely for inspection purposes (ie low risk procedures);
- welcomed HSE's guidance on *Infection at work: Controlling the risks from human remains*, which had been approved for publication. Members agreed that the guidance covered all salient TSE issues and was consistent with the WG's advice in the “After Death” Annex of the TSE Guidance;
- received a presentation on a revised risk assessment on the transmission of vCJD via surgical instruments; and
- agreed that a long-term register of occupational exposures to TSEs from needlestick injuries should be established.

6.1.1 BSE OCCUPATIONAL GUIDANCE DRAFTING GROUP

26. The BSE Occupational Guidance Drafting Group was set up in September 2003 as a sub-group of the TSE Working Group, tasked with reviewing and revising the ACDP guidance “*BSE (Bovine spongiform encephalopathy)*”:

Background and general occupational guidance” (the BSE Guidance). The terms of reference of the Drafting Group are:

“To review and update the guidance ‘BSE (Bovine spongiform encephalopathy): Background and general occupational guidance’ including the supplement ‘Guidance for handling meat and bone meal material.’ This work will include:

- *Identifying all work activities that should be encompassed by the guidance;*
- *Considering the risks of workers and others being exposed as a result of these activities; and*
- *Producing guidance on the control measures required to ensure exposure is either prevented or appropriately controlled.”*

27. The Drafting Group met on five occasions in 2004 – 2nd March, 11th May, 1st July, 9th September and 18th November. At the March meeting Sarah Senior was welcomed as the new Chair, and members focused on developing the Interim Guidance for Abattoirs. The Interim Guidance for Abattoirs was subsequently agreed and approved by the TSE Working Group in May and the ACDP in September. In May and July the Drafting Group reviewed and revised different sections of the BSE Guidance, finally seeing the completely revised document as a whole in September. The second draft of the revised guidance was considered at the November meeting, when members also discussed how to publicise the new guidance to relevant stakeholders.

6.2 MANAGING THE RISKS DRAFTING GROUP

28. The Managing the Risks Drafting Group’s terms of reference were:

“To revise the ACDP’s Categorisation Guidance in order to provide up to date advice on the hazards and risks to workers and others from workplace exposure to biological agents. To review the Approved List of Biological Agents.”

29. The Drafting Group met twice in 2004 (17th February and 20th May). The Group discussed the responses to the external consultation exercise for the new guidance *“Managing the Risks in the Laboratory and Healthcare Premises”* and then agreed the final draft of the guidance. The guidance was approved by the ACDP in December 2004, and published as an electronic only document on the ACDP website in June 2005

(<http://www.hse.gov.uk/biosafety/biologagents.pdf>)

30. The Drafting Group has now completed the revision of the Categorisation Guidance with the publication of *“Infection at Work: Controlling the Risks”*

(<http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/infection.pdf>) , the *“Approved List of Biological Agents”* (<http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/misc208.pdf>) and

“Managing the Risks in Laboratory and Healthcare Premises”.

6.3 CONTAINMENT LEVEL (CL) 4 WORKING GROUP

31. The CL4 Working Group was originally constituted in January 2001 under the Chairmanship of Professor Roger Freeman. The terms of reference are:

“To produce ACDP Guidance on the hazards and risks to workers and others from work with Hazard Group 4 biological agents and advise on the preventative or control measures needed to safeguard their health and safety”.

32. Following the untimely death of Professor Freeman this work was deferred until the Working Group was reconstituted in December 2004 under the chairmanship of Professor George Griffin.

33. The first meeting of the reconstituted CL4 Working Group was held on 13th December 2004. This meeting welcomed four new members and discussed current progress on the Guidance. The Working Group re-stated its aims to produce a completed draft of the Guidance document by the end of summer 2005, and to formally present the final draft to the ACDP at its September 2005 meeting.

6.4 PETS TRAVEL SCHEME WORKING GROUP

34. The Pets Travel Scheme (PETS) Working Group was formed in 2000 to consider issues arising from the introduction of the Pets Travel Scheme. The Scheme initially allowed the entry of cats and dogs into the UK from specified countries under certain treatment conditions and without quarantine. Over time, the PETS Working Group was asked to consider the implications of extending the scheme to cover other countries and other animals.

35. The PETS Working Group met on 18th February 2004 to discuss the extension of the UK rabies treatment regime for cats and dogs to ferrets as the result of publication of a new EU Regulation. The Working Group agreed that the rabies risks from pet ferrets entering the UK without quarantine from low risk countries were not sufficient to disbar entry. They also agreed a suitable treatment regime. The PETS Working Group then looked at the list of “other species” in the EU Regulation, and advised that there should be rabies controls for those “other species” entering the EU from third countries, particularly in the case of rodents. They identified a number of other exotic diseases that also needed to be considered here.

36. The PETS Working Group recommendations were passed to the relevant EU Standing Committee.

GLOSSARY

| | |
|--------|---|
| ACDP | Advisory Committee on Dangerous Pathogens |
| BSE | Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy |
| CJD | Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease |
| CL4 | Containment Level 4 |
| CMO | Chief Medical Officer |
| COSHH | Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (as amended) |
| Defra | Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs |
| DH | Department of Health |
| DSTL | Defence, Science and Technology Laboratory |
| EA | Environment Agency |
| EAGA | Expert Advisory Group on AIDS |
| EU | European Union |
| FSA | Food Standards Agency |
| HG | Hazard Group |
| HPA | Health Protection Agency |
| HPAI | Highly pathogenic avian influenza |
| HSE | Health and Safety Executive |
| HSE NI | Health and Safety Executive, Northern Ireland |
| MHA | Meat Hygiene Service |
| MHRA | Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency |
| MLC | Meat and Livestock Commission |
| NepNei | National Expert Panel on New and Emerging Infections |
| NIBSC | National Institute of Biological Standards and Control |
| OTM | Over Thirty Month |
| OTMS | Over Thirty Month Scheme |
| PETS | Pets Travel Scheme |
| RPA | Rural Payments Agency |
| SARS | Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome |
| SEAC | Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee |
| TSE | Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy |
| TSE WG | Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy Working Group |
| VLA | Veterinary Laboratory Agency |