

**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 76<sup>th</sup> on the 22<sup>nd</sup> March and the 78<sup>th</sup> on the 14<sup>th</sup> September) and cancelled one meeting (the 77<sup>th</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup> January, 12<sup>th</sup> May and 12<sup>th</sup> October;
- the Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) Occupational Guidance Drafting Group met on 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 11<sup>th</sup> May, 1<sup>st</sup> July, 9<sup>th</sup> September and 18<sup>th</sup> November;
- there was an *ad hoc* meeting of the Pets Travel Scheme (PETS) Working Group on 18<sup>th</sup> February,
- the Managing the Risks Drafting Group met on 17<sup>th</sup> February and 20<sup>th</sup> May; and
- the Containment Level 4 (CL4) Working Group was reconstituted on 13<sup>th</sup> 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 Keddie	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 76<sup>th</sup> meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup> March and the 78<sup>th</sup> meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> September. In addition a Secretariat Report was produced in the place of one meeting (the 77<sup>th</sup>).

### 5.1 76<sup>TH</sup> MEETING

17. At the 76<sup>th</sup> meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup> 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](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 77<sup>TH</sup> MEETING

18. The extended Secretariat Report for the 77<sup>th</sup> meeting, issued in June 2004, provided members with the Minutes from the 76<sup>th</sup> 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 78<sup>TH</sup> MEETING

19. At the 78<sup>th</sup> meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> 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](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. 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting – 16<sup>th</sup> 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.

#### 24.2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting – 12<sup>th</sup> 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.

#### 25.3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting – 12<sup>th</sup> 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 – 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 11<sup>th</sup> May, 1<sup>st</sup> July, 9<sup>th</sup> September and 18<sup>th</sup> 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 (17<sup>th</sup> February and 20<sup>th</sup> 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 13<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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