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- **Email:** TBBR.Policybranch@daera-ni.gov.uk

- **Visit:** our webpage at www.daera-ni.gov.uk
About us
We are the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs.

What do we do?
Here are some of the things we do.

- We look after the development of farming, forests and fishing in Northern Ireland.
- We provide a service to look after the health and welfare of animals, fish and plants.
- We look after environment and rural development in Northern Ireland.
- We provide research, expert advice and education.
- We look after some parts of public health in how food is made.
What is bTB

- Bovine Tuberculosis (bTB) is a disease in cattle. However, the disease can be found in other animals such as badgers.

- The disease can cause illness in cattle.

- It also causes upset for the people who own them and can be very bad for their businesses.

- It spreads between cattle when they are close to each other. It may also sometimes spread between cattle and badgers.

What is DAERA doing about it?

- We have a plan to eradicate bTB. This means we must work to get rid of it in Northern Ireland.

- This is paid for by money that comes from people who pay taxes.

- Getting rid of bTB is not easy and costs a lot of money.

- Even though we are trying to get rid of bTB we haven’t done as well as we had hoped.

- For this reason, we have to look at what else we can do.
What do we want to do?

- If there was no bTB, the money spent trying to get rid of it could be spent on other important work. For example, improving people’s health or improving education for children.

- This document explains the new things we want to do to help get rid of bTB.
Working Together

• We want to put in place new groups. In these groups, people who know a lot about bTB can work together to check how well our plans are working. They can also give us advice on how to make our plans better.

• We want to have one top group covering all of Northern Ireland. This group will give advice to help the Minister to make important decisions. These will be decisions about how to get rid of bTB.

• We also want to have three groups covering different parts of Northern Ireland. These groups would keep us informed about bTB in their areas. They would also tell us if there are any problems that we may not know about.

• We want to have groups at local level too. These groups would come together if bTB becomes a big problem in their area. They would take actions locally to solve the problem.
Finding bTB on farms and getting rid of it

- All farmers must have their cattle tested by vets each year for bTB. If we find bTB on a farm we have to stop it spreading to other animals. We also have to get rid of it as quickly as possible.

- We want to make the best use of different tests that we believe will help get rid of bTB faster.

- We want to do more to get rid of bTB on farms where it keeps coming back to the farm. We also want to do more to get rid of bTB where it has been present on a farm for a long time.
• We want to do more to stop farmers from bringing more cattle onto their farm if we think it may stop us clearing up bTB on the farm.

• To stop bTB spreading we sometimes have to tell a farmer that their animals cannot be moved from their farm. We have to get rid of the disease before we can allow them to move their cattle away.

• Sometimes, animals must be moved if they may not be well enough cared for where they are. We want to be able to allow farmers to move their animals from the farm when this might happen. We want to make sure this is done without spreading bTB to other animals.

• We also want to do more to lower the chances of mistakes being made.

• Sometimes people may think that having bTB in their cattle could affect their business. We want to make sure that nobody is tempted to break the law if this happens.
Paying for the costs of bTB

Keeping Cattle Healthy

- We provide farmers with a lot of information and advice. This is to help them to look after the health of their cattle. Farmers need to do things to help stop their cattle from catching diseases such as bTB.

- We want to do more to encourage and help farmers to look after the health of their cattle. We also want to do more to help farmers to stop their cattle from catching bTB.
Some farmers are not doing enough to protect the health of their cattle. This can sometimes be a risk to other cattle on nearby farms. Where this happens, we want to look at how we may use the law. This would mean that those farmers will have to do things to help to stop the disease from spreading to other farms.

Controlling bTB and trying to get rid of it costs a lot. Costs are growing every year. We want to make sure the costs of bTB are shared. We want some of the cost to come from the money we get from people who pay tax. We want the rest of the money to come from the people who own the cattle. We believe this will help people to understand the importance of keeping bTB away from their cattle.
• When an animal is tested and it is shown to have bTB, we take that animal away. We pay the farmer the full value of the animal. We want to change this. We still want to pay for most of the value of the animal. We do not want to pay for all of it. We want farmers to pay for some of the costs too. If we do this, the costs would be shared between us and the person who owns the animal.

• Testing cattle for bTB is free to farmers. We are thinking of changing this so that the costs are shared. To do this, we want farmers to pay for one bTB test for their herd each year.
How you can

• Find out more about this Consultation Document Impact Assessment; or

• Tell us what you think about this;

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