

# WOAH Reference Laboratory Reports Activities 2023

## Activities in 2023

This report has been submitted : 11 juin 2024 20:16

### Laboratory Information

<b>Name of disease (or topic) for which you are a designated WOAHO Reference Laboratory:</b>	Bovine spongiform encephalopathy
<b>Address of laboratory:</b>	Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Weybridge, Pathology Dept., Woodham Lane, New Haw, Addlestone, Surrey KT15 3NB, UNITED KINGDOM
<b>Tel.:</b>	+442080269755
<b>E-mail address:</b>	john.spiropoulos@apha.gov.uk
<b>Website:</b>	john.spiropoulos@apha.gov.uk
<b>Name (including Title) of Head of Laboratory (Responsible Official):</b>	Mr David Holdsworth
<b>Name (including Title and Position) of WOAHO Reference Expert:</b>	Dr John Spiropoulos, Senior Veterinary Pathologist
<b>Which of the following defines your laboratory? Check all that apply:</b>	Governmental

### TOR1: DIAGNOSTIC METHODS

1. Did your laboratory perform diagnostic tests for the specified disease/topic for purposes such as disease diagnosis, screening of animals for export, surveillance, etc.?  
(Not for quality control, proficiency testing or staff training)

Yes

Diagnostic Test	Indicated in WOAHO Manual (Yes/No)	Total number of test performed last year	
		Nationally	Internationally
Indirect diagnostic tests			
Western blot		89	1
Immunohistochemistry		928	1
Direct diagnostic tests		Nationally	Internationally

### TOR2: REFERENCE MATERIAL

2. Did your laboratory produce or supply imported standard reference reagents officially recognised by WOAHO?

No

3. Did your laboratory supply standard reference reagents (nonWOAH-approved) and/or other diagnostic reagents to WOAHO Members?

Yes

TYPE OF REAGENT AVAILABLE	RELATED DIAGNOSTIC TEST	PRODUCED/ PROVIDE	AMOUNT SUPPLIED NATIONALLY (ML, MG)	AMOUNT SUPPLIED INTERNATIONALLY (ML, MG)	NO. OF RECIPIENT WOAHO MEMBER COUNTRIES	COUNTRY OF RECIPIENTS
Unstained sections	Immunohistochemistry	4	0	4	2	AUSTRALIA, BRAZIL,

4. Did your laboratory produce vaccines?

No

5. Did your laboratory supply vaccines to WOAHO Members?

No

## TOR3: NEW PROCEDURES

6. Did your laboratory develop new diagnostic methods for the designated pathogen or disease?

No

7. Did your laboratory validate diagnostic methods according to WOAHA Standards for the designated pathogen or disease?

No

8. Did your laboratory develop new vaccines for the designated pathogen or disease?

No

9. Did your laboratory validate vaccines according to WOAHA Standards for the designated pathogen or disease?

No

## TOR4: DIAGNOSTIC TESTING FACILITIES

10. Did your laboratory carry out diagnostic testing for other WOAHA Members?

Yes

NAME OF WOAHA MEMBER COUNTRY SEEKING ASSISTANCE	DATE	WHICH DIAGNOSTIC TEST USED	NO. SAMPLES RECEIVED FOR PROVISION OF DIAGNOSTIC SUPPORT	NO. SAMPLES RECEIVED FOR PROVISION OF CONFIRMATORY DIAGNOSES
NEW ZEALAND	2023-10-12	Western blot and Immunohistochemistry	2	0

11. Did your laboratory provide expert advice in technical consultancies on the request of an WOAHA Member?

Yes

NAME OF THE WOAHA MEMBER COUNTRY RECEIVING A TECHNICAL CONSULTANCY	PURPOSE	HOW THE ADVICE WAS PROVIDED
NEW ZEALAND	Improve surveillance efficiency	Via email
AUSTRALIA	Provision of technical advice regarding immunohistochemistry	Via email
BRAZIL	Provision of technical advice regarding immunohistochemistry	Via email

## TOR5: COLLABORATIVE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL STUDIES

12. Did your laboratory participate in international scientific studies in collaboration with WOAHA Members other than the own?

No

13. In exercising your activities, have you identified any regulatory research needs\* relevant for WOAHA?

No

## TOR6: EPIZOOLOGICAL DATA

14. Did your Laboratory collect epidemiological data relevant to international disease control?

No

15. Did your laboratory disseminate epidemiological data that had been processed and analysed?

No

16. What method of dissemination of information is most often used by your laboratory? (Indicate in the appropriate box the number by category and list the details in the box)

a) Articles published in peer-reviewed journals:

- 1  
*Experimental transmission of ovine atypical scrapie to cattle*  
 Timm Konold, John Spiropoulos et al  
 The experiment investigated if cattle can develop BSE when they are challenged with atypical scrapie

b) International conferences:

1  
 Strain characterisation of cattle passaged CH1641  
 Janet Hills, Inigo Chomon Elosua et al  
 The experiment investigated if cattle can develop BSE when they are challenged with CH1641 scrapie

c) National conferences:

d) Other (Provide website address or link to appropriate information):

1  
 APHA TSE website (<https://science.vla.gov.uk/tse-lab-net/>)

## TOR7: SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL TRAINING

17. Did your laboratory provide scientific and technical training to laboratory personnel from other WOAHP Members?

No

## TOR8: QUALITY ASSURANCE

18. Does your laboratory have a Quality Management System?

Yes

Quality management system adopted	Certificate scan (PDF, JPG, PNG format)	
ISO 9001:2015	ANIMAL PLANT HEALTH AGENCY - Certificate UK013916 - ISO 9001 - exp. 25-07-2026	ANIMAL PLANT HEALTH AGENCY - Certificate UK013916 - ISO 9001 - exp. 25-07-2026.pdf
GLP	GLPStatementofCompliance_APHA_25 April 2024	GLPStatementofCompliance_APHA_25 April 2024.pdf
ISO/IEC 17025:2017	ISO 17025	ISO 17025.pdf

19. Is your quality management system accredited?

Yes

Test for which your laboratory is accredited	Accreditation body
Immunohistochemistry	VETQAS
Western blot	VETQAS

20. Does your laboratory maintain a "biorisk management system" for the pathogen and the disease concerned?

Yes

Implementation of all necessary protective & preventative measures plus decontamination protocols in compliance with national legislation and the guidelines issued by the Advisory Committee on Dangerous Pathogens' Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy (ACDP TSE) subgroup.

## TOR9: SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS

21. Did your laboratory organise scientific meetings related to the pathogen in question on behalf of WOAHP?

No

22. Did your laboratory participate in scientific meetings related to the pathogen in question on behalf of WOAHP?

No

## TOR10: NETWORK WITH WOAHP REFERENCE LABORATORIES

23. Did your laboratory exchange information with other WOAHP Reference Laboratories designated for the same pathogen or disease?

Yes

24. Do you network (collaborate or share information) with other WOAHP Reference Laboratories designated for the same pathogen?

No

25. Did you organise or participate in inter-laboratory proficiency tests with WOA Reference Laboratories designated for the same pathogen?

Yes

PURPOSE OF THE PROFICIENCY TESTS: 1	ROLE OF YOUR REFERENCE LABORATORY (ORGANISER/ PARTICIPANT)	NO. PARTICIPANTS	PARTICIPATING WOA REF. LABS/ ORGANISING WOA REF. LAB.
Immunohistochemistry	Participant	32	EU and affiliated countries / IZT
Western Blot	Participant	32	EU and affiliated countries / IZT
Pathology Interpretation	Participant	32	EU and affiliated countries / IZT

26. Did your laboratory collaborate with other WOA Reference Laboratories for the same disease on scientific research projects for the diagnosis or control of the pathogen of interest?

No

## **TOR11: OTHER INTERLABORATORY PROFICIENCY TESTING**

27. Did your laboratory organise or participate in inter-laboratory proficiency tests with laboratories other than WOA Reference Laboratories for the same pathogen?

No

## **TOR12: EXPERT CONSULTANTS**

28. Did your laboratory place expert consultants at the disposal of WOA?

No

29. Additional comments regarding your report:

Yes

*This OIE scrapie reference laboratory has also produced and provided via VETQAS This OIE BSE reference laboratory has also produced and provided via VETQAS Proficiency Testing (APHA's independent, accredited, proficiency testing service) brain tissue to 25 participants for ELISA validation and to 9 participants for confirmatory western blot validation. The OIE reference laboratory was involved in tissue production, data interpretation and provided technical advice whenever it was required.*