

# WOAH Reference Laboratory Reports Activities 2025

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## LABORATORY INFORMATION

<b>*Name of disease (or topic) for which you are a designated WOA Reference Laboratory:</b>	Enzootic bovine leukosis
<b>*Address of laboratory:</b>	Woodham Lane, Addlestone, Surrey. KT15 3NB
<b>*Tel:</b>	+44 (0)7920 020 671
<b>*E-mail address:</b>	bhudipa.choudhury@apha.gov.uk
<b>Website:</b>	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/animal-and-plant-health-agency">https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/animal-and-plant-health-agency</a>
<b>*Name (including Title) of Head of Laboratory (Responsible Official):</b>	Mr Jason Field
<b>*Name (including Title and Position) of WOA Reference Expert:</b>	Dr Bhudipa Choudhury; Lead Scientist Animal and Zoonotic Viral Disease Portfolio.
<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 WOA Manual (Yes/No)	Total number of test performed last year	
		Nationally	Internationally
Indirect diagnostic tests			
ELISA	Yes	3971	8
AGIDT	Yes	304	0
Direct diagnostic tests			
PCR	Yes	23	0

## TOR2: REFERENCE MATERIAL

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

No

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

No

4. Did your laboratory produce vaccines?

Not applicable

5. Did your laboratory supply vaccines to WOA Members?

## 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 WOAH Standards for the designated pathogen or disease?

Yes

Name of the new test or diagnostic method developed	Description and References (Publication, website, etc.)
Real-time PCR	The real-time PCR as described by Rola-Luszczak et al., 2013 is validated, the accreditation process (ISO17025) continues.

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

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

## TOR4: DIAGNOSTIC TESTING FACILITIES

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

No

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

Yes

Name of the WOAH Member Country receiving a technical consultancy	Purpose	How the advice was provided
JAMAICA	Surveillance sampling and diagnostics queries.	Remote (email)
KOREA (DEM. PEOPLE'S. REP. OF)	Serological diagnostics query	Remote (email)

## TOR5: COLLABORATIVE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL STUDIES

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

No

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

No

## TOR6: EPIZOOLOGICAL DATA

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

Yes

If the answer is yes, please provide details of the data collected:

National surveillance data which confirms continued disease freedom.

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:

b) International conferences:

c) National conferences:

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

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Quarterly national surveillance meetings with UK government, providing updates regarding suspect cases, disease epidemiology and Reference Laboratory activities.

## TOR7: SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL TRAINING

17. Did your laboratory provide scientific and technical training to laboratory personnel from other WOAHA 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)	
ISO17025	PDF	UKAS Certificate Dec 25.pdf
ISO9001	PDF	ISO 9001 Certificate.pdf

19. Is your quality management system accredited?

Yes

Test for which your laboratory is accredited	Accreditation body
ELISA	UKAS
AGIDT	UKAS
PCR	UKAS

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

Yes

APHA maintains a complete and functioning laboratory biological risk management system, which ensures that the laboratory is in compliance with applicable local, national (UK Health and Safety Executive), regional, and international standards and requirements for biosafety and laboratory biosecurity (in accordance with the Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals, Chapter 1.1.4).

## TOR9: SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS

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

No

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

No

## TOR10: NETWORK WITH WOAHA REFERENCE LABORATORIES

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

Yes

24. Are you a member of a network of WOAHA Reference Laboratories designated for the same pathogen?

No

25. Did you organise or participate in inter-laboratory proficiency tests with WOAHA Reference Laboratories designated for the same pathogen during the past 2 years?

No

Please see Q27.

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 during the past 2 years?

Yes

Purpose for inter-laboratory test comparisons <sup>1</sup>	Role of your reference laboratory (organizer/participant)	No. participating laboratories	Name of the test	WOAH Member Countries
Serology - milk	Organiser and participant (different departments)	11	ELISA	AUSTRIA, DENMARK, ESTONIA, GREECE, KOSOVO, LATVIA, MALTA, NORWAY, SWEDEN, SWITZERLAND, UNITED KINGDOM,
Serology - sera	Organiser and participant (different departments)	24	ELISA and AGIDT	AUSTRALIA, AUSTRIA, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, CANADA, CZECH REPUBLIC, DENMARK, ESTONIA, FRANCE, GREECE, IRELAND, MALTA, MOROCCO, NEW ZEALAND, NORWAY, POLAND, PORTUGAL, SERBIA, SLOVENIA, SOUTH AFRICA, SWEDEN, SWITZERLAND, TURKEY, UNITED KINGDOM,

## TOR12: EXPERT CONSULTANTS

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

Yes

Kind of consultancy	Location	Subject (facultative)
The Biological Standards Commission requested harmonisation via a common template (table) the PCR methods section of CHAPTER 3.4.9. ENZOOTIC BOVINE LEUKOSIS, Terrestrial Manual.	Online	EBL

29. Additional comments regarding your report:

Yes

Q4/5 (and 8/9): Not applicable: BLV (the causative agent of EBL) is a retrovirus, as such vaccine design/production is highly unlikely.

Q6 and 7: The diagnostic techniques are established so whilst their performance is continuously monitored limited updates have been required i.e., there is only one BLV serotype and despite multiple genotypes there is no impact on molecular diagnosis with existing tests.

Q15: answer "No"; as explained in Q14 surveillance was conducted, as BLV was not detected there was accordingly no need for follow up. These data were shared with the fellow Ref Lab in Poland.

Q24 and Q25: As the Commission is aware there are only two Reference Laboratories for EBL: GB and Poland, accordingly there isn't a "network" as such, rather we routinely maintain informal contact with each other e.g., an application for a Tri-partite "Twinning" project with the National Reference Laboratory in Thailand has been submitted to WOA (Mariana Marrana) in December 2025.