

30 October 2025

Dear

ATISN 26212 – Bluetongue Order

Information requested

Thank you for your request which I received on 3 October 2025. You asked for: Information on the decision to declare a Bluetongue Virus Temporary Control Zone, near Tintern, Monmouthshire. To include:

1. What is the scientific basis/research which supports such an Order?
2. What evidence is there that such an Order will have any impact on the spread and/or impact of Bluetongue in Wales?
3. What is the cost/benefit analysis of this Order considering the impact on farmers and the food supply?
4. Clarification on what species of animal are subject to the movement restrictions declared in the order.

Our response

The information you requested is enclosed.

1. The scientific basis for Bluetongue Control Orders and the declaration of control zones is grounded in international standards, legislation and epidemiological investigations.
Bluetongue is a vector-borne disease transmitted by *Culicoides* midges and the disease can also be spread by other means, in particular the movement of infected livestock. Peer-reviewed scientific studies, including those by the Pirbright Institute and the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) in Great Britain and by scientists in other affected countries, consistently show that restricting animal movements, establishing control zones and implementing targeted surveillance are the most effective ways to prevent the introduction and spread of the virus. These measures are reflected in UK and EU animal health law.
2. There is strong evidence from previous Bluetongue outbreaks in the UK and Europe that timely implementation of movement restrictions and control zones significantly reduces disease spread, limits the number of infected premises, and mitigates the overall impact on animal health and welfare and trade.

Further information can be found at:

- [Bluetongue virus | Virus | The Pirbright Institute](#)
- [Bluetongue virus disease control strategy for Great Britain | GOV.WALES](#)

- [Bluetongue: epidemiology reports - GOV.UK](#) (this report includes references to several published research papers on Bluetongue which may be of interest).
3. Under The Bluetongue (Wales) Regulations 2008, the Welsh Government is not required to complete a cost benefits analysis, such as an economic impact assessment, when declaring a Bluetongue virus Temporary Control Zone. Such a requirement would delay the implementation of urgent disease control measures.
 4. Under Regulation 2(1) of The Bluetongue (Wales) Regulations 2008, the animals subject to movement restrictions are: Ruminating animals (includes cows and sheep) and Camelids (includes llamas and alpacas). This information can be found in the Notes section of the TCZ Declaration.

Next steps

If you are dissatisfied with the Welsh Government's handling of your request, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to the Welsh Government's Freedom of Information Officer at:

Information Rights Unit,
Welsh Government,
Cathays Park,
Cardiff,
CF10 3NQ

or Email: Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales

Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number above.

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely