In 2017 alone, there were 63 new TB incidents, which represents a 75% increase on the previous 12 months (36 incidents). This is the highest annual figure of incidents, since 2013 (66). A similar disease picture spans the border of England, occurring in Cheshire and Shropshire.

From 13 November 2018, enhanced TB surveillance in the ITBAN will begin with the aim of detecting infection quickly and slowing the rate of new TB incidents. The ITBAN is adjacent to the Low TB Area, which we must protect if we are to reach our target of declaring the first area in Wales as Officially TB Free status by 2023. It is important therefore that cattle keepers continue to take action to protect their herds from bovine TB.

This is likely to be the first phase of interventions in the ITBAN; other measures to reduce TB incidence in the area, are currently being considered.
Additional contiguous testing around TB breakdown herds

Cattle herds which are neighbouring TB breakdown herds (with Officially TB Free Withdrawn (OTFW) status), will be subject to additional contiguous testing. This means that these herds will be subject to a contiguous test, a ‘contiguous 6’ test (six months after the initial test), a further ‘contiguous 6’ test (after a further six months) followed by a final ‘contiguous 12’ test, 12 months later.

The aim of this measure is to detect infection earlier and to detect previously undisclosed infection with a view to getting ahead of the disease and preventing new TB breakdowns.

Wales TB Regionalisation

TB Area
Cymorth TB ‘Keep it Out’ visits
Cymorth TB ‘Keep it Out’ visits are being made available to farmers in the ITBAN whose herds test clear to a contiguous TB test. Those herds which suffer a TB breakdown will be offered a routine Cymorth TB breakdown visit.

‘Keep it Out’ visits will include provision of bespoke advice on practical measures farmers can take to reduce the risk of TB entering their farm.

Informed purchasing
It is important to remember that buying in cattle always carries the risk of introducing disease onto premises. It is, therefore, especially important when trading cattle to provide TB information at the point of sale so buyers have a better understanding of the risk of introducing disease into their herd. It also allows them to make more informed buying decisions and take sensible precautions when introducing new animals.

Providing TB information at point of sale can:
- Protect herds from disease;
- Reduce the potential spread of diseases to new areas;
- Help maintain productive and healthy herds;
- Cut the cost of having a TB breakdown.

Badger Found Dead survey
To get a better picture of disease in badgers within the area, we would encourage any individual who comes across a dead badger carcass to call 0808 1695110 for further information and instruction in dealing with these carcases.
Further Information and Useful Contacts

Further information on current TB policies can be found at [www.gov.wales/bovinetb](http://www.gov.wales/bovinetb) including a comprehensive Frequently Asked Questions document containing all recent measures in Wales.

More detailed information on all aspects of controlling TB can be found at:
- [www.tbhub.co.uk](http://www.tbhub.co.uk)
- [www.ibtb.co.uk](http://www.ibtb.co.uk)
- [www.checs.co.uk](http://www.checs.co.uk)

**Animal & Plant Health Agency (APHA)**
Website: [www.gov.uk/apha](http://www.gov.uk/apha)
Telephone: 03003038268

**Farming Communities Network**
[www.fcn.org.uk](http://www.fcn.org.uk)

**North Wales Regional Board**
info@tbboard.cymru

**Veterinary Delivery Partners**
**Menter a Busnes**
[www.menterabusnes.co.uk](http://www.menterabusnes.co.uk)

**Iechyd Da**
[www.i-da.co.uk](http://www.i-da.co.uk)