

# **Consultation on cattle identification and traceability in Scotland**

**April 2024**

## Contents

<b>PART 1 – About This Consultation .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>PART 2 – Identification, Registration &amp; Movement – Bovine EID .....</b>	<b>7</b>
Bovine EID pilot – an industry-led initiative .....	8
Standards and numbering .....	9
Bovine EID and traceability across UK and EU .....	11
Use of electronic ear tags as official means of identification .....	11
Mandatory use of EID for new-born cattle .....	11
Adoption of EID in the historical herd .....	12
<b>PART 3 – Further Proposals and Costs .....</b>	<b>14</b>
Holding register .....	14
Reporting and recording timescales .....	15
Cattle passports.....	16
<b>PART 4 – Consultation Questions.....</b>	<b>17</b>

## **PART 1 – About This Consultation**

### **Topic of this consultation**

This consultation is seeking your views on changes to cattle identification and traceability in Scotland.

The introduction of bovine electronic identification (EID) has been a longstanding industry request. EID is seen by many in the farming sector as an opportunity to modernise and improve on efficiencies whilst supporting competitiveness within the supply chain. Furthermore, EID could also be used to improve on-farm management practices as well as on-farm automation. The technology provides additional health and safety benefits in being able to read cattle at a safe distance.

As set out in the Vision for Agriculture, the Scottish Ministers recognise that the development and the introduction of new technologies will play an important role as we look to modernise the farming sector for a more sustainable future. Therefore, we have, to date, supported and funded an industry-led bovine EID pilot focusing on the potential use of ultra-high frequency (UHF) technology across Scotland. Use of low frequency (LF) EID for identification of sheep is already required.

Our current position is technology neutral. The ScotEID multi-species relational database system is also technology neutral and looks to capture data in an accurate and timely manner.

This consultation seeks views on use of bovine EID in Scotland, including whether its use should be made mandatory, and how new rules can be best introduced. This will focus on the following industry proposals:

- to require that all new-born cattle are identified with electronic ear tags, and
- a transition of the 'historical herd' to EID (the historical herd are cattle that have already been tagged under existing identification rules).

Further, we are seeking respondents' views on a number of other wider proposals in relation to the cattle identification regime. These are in relation to the following:

- the use of a fully online holding register for all cattle births, deaths and movements (a partial online holding register currently exists for within business movements),
- reporting and recording timescales, and
- the removal of paper cattle passports for EID identified animals.

### **Geographical extent**

Policy for cattle identification is a devolved responsibility of Scottish Ministers. The proposals outlined in this consultation apply to Scotland.

## **Audience**

Anyone may respond to this consultation. The Scottish Government would particularly like to hear from: cattle keepers, markets, abattoirs, Scottish local authorities and other industry bodies and representatives.

## **Body responsible for this consultation**

The Scottish Government's Animal Health and Welfare Division - Disease Prevention Team is responsible for this consultation.

## **Duration**

This consultation starts on 4 April 2024  
This consultation closes on 27 June 2024

This constitutes a full consultation period of 12 weeks.

## **How to make an enquiry**

If you have any queries about this consultation, please contact the Scottish Government Disease Prevention Team by email at [LivestockID@gov.scot](mailto:LivestockID@gov.scot)

## **Responding to this consultation paper**

Please respond to this consultation using the Scottish Government's consultation hub: "**Citizen Space**" (<http://consult.gov.scot>). You can access and respond to **this consultation** here: <https://consult.gov.scot/agriculture-and-rural-economy/cattle-identification-and-traceability>

You can save and return to your response while the consultation remains open. **Please ensure that your consultation response is submitted via Citizen Space before the closing date of 27 June 2024.**

If you are unable to submit your response through our consultation hub, then please submit it along with a completed Respondent Information Form (which has been published alongside this consultation paper) to:

Cattle Identification Consultation  
Disease Prevention Team  
The Scottish Government  
P Spur  
Saughton House  
Broomhouse Drive  
EH11 3XD

Please do try to reply using the Citizen Space hub as it makes administration of consultations considerably easier.

Please try to answer all the questions; however, if you are unable to answer any particular question then please feel free to move on to the next. Please note that you will be asked to explain the reasons for your answer as appropriate in the space provided in the questionnaire on Citizen Space.

When answering the consultation questions, we ask that you take into consideration the information provided in this document alongside your own relevant knowledge or personal experience. All opinions are welcome.

### **Handling your response**

If you respond using Citizen Space, you will be directed to the 'About You' page before submitting your response. Please indicate on the Respondent Information Form how you wish your response to be handled and whether you are happy for your response to be published. If you ask for your response not to be published, we will regard it as confidential, and we will treat it accordingly.

All respondents should be aware that the Scottish Government is subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 and would therefore have to consider any request made to it under the Act for information relating to responses made to this consultation exercise.

To find out how we handle your personal data, please see our privacy policy: <https://beta.gov.scot/privacy/>.

### **Next steps in the process**

Where respondents have given permission for their response to be made public, and after we have checked that they contain no potentially defamatory material, responses will be made publicly available at <http://consult.scotland.gov.uk>. If you use Citizen Space to respond, you will receive a copy of your response via email.

When the consultation closes, all responses will be analysed and considered along with any other available evidence to help us decide on whether to progress our proposals. Responses will be published where permission to do so has been given. A consultation summary report will also be published that will include an anonymised analysis of the responses received and set out the next steps.

### **Scottish Government consultation process**

Consultation is an essential part of the policy making process. It gives you the opportunity to have your say on what we do or propose to do, and it gives us valuable insight, perspective, and evidence that in turn informs and shapes what we do.

All Scottish Government consultations are available online at: <http://consult.gov.scot>.

Consultation responses received are analysed and used as part of the decision-making process, along with a range of other available information and evidence. We

publish a report for every consultation we undertake. Depending on the nature of the consultation undertaken, the responses received may:

- indicate the need for policy development or review,
- inform the development of a particular policy,
- help decisions to be made between alternative policy proposals, and
- be used to finalise legislation before it is implemented.

While the details of individual circumstances described in a response to a consultation may usefully inform the policy process, public consultations cannot address individual concerns and comments, which should be directed to the relevant body as appropriate.

## **PART 2 – Identification, Registration & Movement – Bovine EID**

### **Introduction**

All cattle in the UK, the European Union and beyond are required to be uniquely identified with approved ear tags, and their movements recorded throughout their lifetime. The system is known as identification, registration and movement (IRM), and is essential for disease prevention, control, eradication, and the protection of public health.

All cattle must be ‘double tagged’ in order to meet legislative requirements, to enable livestock traceability and for the protection of public health. These tags are known as the ‘primary’ and ‘secondary’ ear tags.

The primary tag, which may be inserted in either ear, referred to as a ‘flag’ tag, must comply with various specifications including that they be made of flexible plastic, at least 45 mm in height and 55 mm wide. The characters must be a minimum of 5 mm high, it must bear the GB symbol of a crown (or name or code of the competent authority), the letters UK and the unique identification number.

The tag approval process is carried out on behalf of all administrations in GB by the Rural Payments Agency (RPA). All approved ear tags must meet the specifications as set out in Regulation (EC) No 1760/2000, Commission Regulation (EC) No 911/2004, (both of which now form part of part of domestic law) and the Cattle Identification (Scotland) Regulations 2007.

Bovine EID is the identification of cattle with an electronic identifier. Using EID when identifying cattle does not, in itself, improve on current cattle traceability. EID requires to have in place data systems and electronic data transfer (EDT) elements in order to support its successful introduction and realise its full benefits.

The ScotMoves+ system, operated by ScotEID, manages all cattle birth, death and movement recording in Scotland. Its introduction in October 2021 was a key milestone towards the future introduction of bovine EID. The introduction of EID offers the possibility of further efficiencies to be realised on-farm and throughout the entire supply chain. It is aimed at improving accuracy and speed compared to the current paper-based systems, most notably paper cattle passports. The removal of paper and the move towards a digital solution aligns with the Scottish Government’s vision to ensure Scotland becomes a leading digital nation.

The key to widespread adoption of EID is to provide users with flexibility in terms of how IDs are read and transferred onto the database using EDT.

Electronic reading, in conjunction with EDT, can offer the following benefits to the livestock sector:

- reduced administrative burden and labour cost savings, in particular for food processing establishments such as slaughterhouses and markets,
- opportunities to improve the scale and efficiency of data usage on-farm and throughout the supply chain,

- strengthening measures and providing enhanced traceability for disease prevention, control, eradication, and the protection of public health,
- improved accuracy and speed in relation to the current paper-based systems (removal of paper cattle passports and paper holding registers),
- health and safety advantages including reduced handling of animals and improved animal welfare,
- faster reading of animal IDs meaning animals can be read in batches as opposed to manual reading/intervention,
- the prevention of fraud, and
- the facilitation of genetic improvements in farming.

### **Bovine EID Industry Stakeholder Working Group**

The Bovine EID Industry Stakeholder Working Group is made up of the following representatives. The group meets bi-annually to discuss future policy in relation to the identification of bovine animals and the on-going outcomes of the Scottish bovine EID pilot.

- National Farmers Union Scotland (Chair)
- Food Standards Scotland (FSS)
- Scottish Agricultural Organisation Society (SAOS)/ScotEID
- Scottish Association of Meat Wholesalers (SAMW)
- Scottish Dairy Cattle Association (SDCA)
- Institute of Auctioneers and Appraisers in Scotland (IAAS)
- Scottish Beef Association (SBA)
- Quality Meat Scotland (QMS)
- Scottish Crofting Federation (SCF)
- market and abattoir operators
- the Scottish Government (SG)

The group set out proposals in June 2017 for a voluntary industry-led pilot on the early adoption of electronic identification of cattle (bovine EID) in Scotland.

Recognising the importance of testing technologies and researching different systems, including the benefits that it could bring to both the industry and government, we welcomed this initiative.

The industry group agreed that SAOS/ScotEID was best placed to research and develop proposals for the bovine EID pilot, given their experience and success in the development of similar systems.

### **Bovine EID pilot – an industry-led initiative**

Following the industry request detailed above, EID for cattle has been trialled progressively in Scotland over the past decade. This pilot project has been delivered by our operational partners, SOAS/ScotEID, who currently operate and manage the multispecies database system for Scotland. Building on experience gained during previous trials on sheep, ScotEID was able to explore how LF electronic tags were already used by a minority of cattle farms for management purposes. Further testing



on UHF electronic tags was conducted under both controlled workshop conditions and in-situ across farms, markets, and abattoirs, which provided a comprehensive range of information capturing the findings gained over the significant period of investigation.

Initial research indicated that LF electronic tags could only achieve a 95% read rate for animals moving through the supply chain. At the time LF electronic tags were introduced for the sheep sector, a 95% read rate was tolerable. However, this was not accepted by the EU commission for cattle due to the requirement that all cattle must have an individual lifetime ID and, as such, cannot enter the food chain without one. All attempts to establish 100% read rates through the supply chain using LF electronic tags were unsuccessful.

LF technology also offered little advantage over the visual reading of cattle tags (as it provides for a reading distance of 12 cm) and thus continued to expose stock handlers to health and safety risks and cattle to welfare stress. Given Scottish beef cattle are generally unused to close human contact, these were found to be significant concerns. The longer reading distance (in excess of 100 cm), provided by UHF technology would reduce the need for handlers to come into close contact with cattle and reduce the risk to animal and handler.

It was also found that dairy farms already using LF technology for parlour management faced problems due to a lack of anti-collision properties: the addition of an official LF electronic tag was found to clash with the existing LF collar already in use. This resulted in one or both LF devices failing to be read reliably or at all.

To assess the potential for using UHF technology for bovine EID, ScotEID tested under both controlled and commercial (field-trial) conditions. UHF electronic tags were found to provide a variable reading range. Varying the antenna signal strength, provided for a very close read range up to around 4 or 5 metres (reducing the health and safety risk). UHF technology is also anti-collision so several tags can be read simultaneously, for example when cattle are moving through a gate, or within a pen or field.

The pilot study reported that UHF technology has no conflict with existing LF-based systems on dairy farms and other LF management systems used on-farm. In addition, the housing of the EID chip within the primary ear tag will allow keepers to use button or metal fold over tags as the secondary means of identification.

A full report into the findings of the pilot can be found at - [ScotEID Report Using UHF For Cattle Electronic Identification August 2023 - ScotEID Library \(dozuki.com\)](#)<sup>1</sup>

## **Standards and numbering**

The Scottish Government already has the digital capability to implement EID regardless of the standard on which it is based. However, the database system used at GB level cannot currently accommodate the numbering formats that would be

---

<sup>1</sup> [ScotEID Report Using UHF For Cattle Electronic Identification August 2023 - ScotEID Library \(dozuki.com\)](#)

required by existing ISO standards. Adoption of such an ISO standard would, at present, therefore prevent interoperability with the GB database.

The International Standards Organisation (ISO)<sup>2</sup> has published technical standards related to electronic identification of animals. ISO 11784 is an international standard which specifies the structure of the identification code which can be read using low frequency (LF) technology. ISO 6881, which lays down a standard for encoding animal identification codes used in UHF transponders, was published in December 2023. ISO 6881 uses the same encoding structure as ISO 11784 (the current LF equivalent).

To allow continued use of existing cattle identification numbers, the ScotEID bovine EID pilot has been using electronic tags based on the United States Department for Agriculture (USDA) interim UHF standard<sup>3</sup>. As this standard facilitates the use of existing identification numbers, it allows for interoperability with current legacy IT systems in GB and it does not require a numbering change in order for cattle IDs to be 'what you see is what you get' ('WYSIWYG'). With WYSIWYG, the number recorded on the database is the same as the number recorded on the tag.

A choice between UHF standards would be influenced by the desired timetable for adoption of EID and the speed at which GB IT systems can be replaced or updated to accommodate the numbering format required by ISO 6881.

Whilst it is generally preferable to adopt technology that is based on internationally recognised standards, the USDA standard is a ready-made solution that could be adopted without the need to wait for legacy GB systems to be upgraded or replaced. Depending on the speed at which GB systems are updated/replaced, use of the USDA standard may accordingly allow for earlier adoption of EID in Scotland.

The Scottish Government does not consider that adoption of the USDA standard would prevent subsequent implementation of ISO compliant UHF (or LF) technology. If keepers were initially required to use the UHF tags meeting the USDA standard, the rules could be changed at a later date to instead require that new-born cattle be identified with EID tags encoded using an ISO standard. UHF readers have the capability to be configured to recognise multiple standards and there is no 'collision' between UHF and LF being read on the same animal.

It is the Scottish Governments understanding that administrations across GB intend to move away from 'UK' as a country code prefix and to use the two-letter alpha code 'GB' where used visibly and the three-digit numeric code '826' where used electronically. Accordingly, it is envisaged that electronic ear tags will have the prefix 'GB' printed on them and will have the prefix '826' encoded onto them. Scottish Government will continue to work to ensure the smooth delivery of any future changes.

---

<sup>2</sup> [ISO - International Organization for Standardization](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Interim Tag Data Standard for UHF Animal Identification](#)

## **Bovine EID and traceability across UK and EU**

The UK and Welsh Governments are currently developing proposals on bovine EID for England and Wales respectively. No announcement has been made by any of the UK administrations on final proposals concerning implementation of bovine EID. The current traceability IT systems operated by the other administrations would not accommodate current ISO standards for bovine EID due to the complexities of the numbering standards (whereas Scotland already has the capability to handle all EID standards). Any mandatory introduction of bovine EID would be subject to the capabilities of systems used across GB/UK. This consultation will contribute to the evidence base for Scottish Ministers to consider and develop future legislative proposals.

### **Use of electronic ear tags as official means of identification**

The Scottish Government envisages a future in which bovine animals are routinely identified with electronic ear tags. Industry groups have requested that the use of electronic tags be made mandatory. They consider this necessary in order for the full benefits of EID to be realised. Mandatory use of electronic ear tags could be implemented in a number of ways. For example, a requirement for use of electronic ear tags could be introduced for all cattle born after a certain date, with any requirements for animals born prior to that date ('the historical herd') introduced at a later date. More detailed discussion and questions about implementation are set out below.

If UHF technology were adopted as the basis for electronic ear tags used as official means of identification, the specified numbering format for new-born cattle could be either that specified by ISO 6881 or the USDA standard. Choice of the specific standard would depend on the timing of introduction of the new rules. Similarly, if LF technology were adopted it would follow the numbering format specified under ISO 11784 however, timing would be dependent on I.T systems being in place in other areas of GB to accommodate a new numbering format.

**Question 1** – Do you support use of electronic ear tags as an official means of identification in cattle?

**Question 2** – Should ultra-high frequency (UHF) or low frequency (LF) technology be used?

**Question 3** – Do you support the use of any other forms of electronic identification as official means of identification (either as primary or secondary identification)?

### **Mandatory use of EID for new-born cattle**

The Scottish Government proposes introducing a requirement that all new-born cattle be identified with an electronic ear tag, the type of which to be specified in future. Such a rule will ensure widespread use of EID across Scotland within a few years.

It is envisaged that the electronic ear tag would be the primary tag and that animals would continue to also be identified by a secondary tag. It is also envisaged that keepers could continue to apply management tags to their animals (i.e. tags that are not required by legislation). As is currently the case in relation to conventional ear tags, the electronic ear tag would need to be applied within a specified period of time after birth. Any introduction would allow time for keepers to consider the new identification requirements and prepare accordingly.

Currently, if you keep cattle for cultural and historical use (except for fairs and exhibitions), instead of identifying them by way of an ear tag, the use of an electronic identifier in the form of a ruminal bolus is permitted. Whilst the use of injectable transponders could also be permitted as a form of EID, they are not considered a practical solution given their nature to migrate and difficulty in retrieving.

**Question 4** – Do you agree that there should be a legal requirement for new-born cattle to be identified with electronic ear tags?

**Question 5** - If yes to Question 4, should current tagging exemptions remain or should other categories of animals be exempted?

#### **Adoption of EID in the historical herd**

The introduction of a rule requiring application of electronic ear tags to new-born cattle would, assuming full compliance, over time result in all cattle in Scotland being electronically identified (unless any exceptions from the rule were put in place). Once all animals in the historical herd (i.e. animals alive at the time of introduction of a requirement for new-born animals to be identified with electronic tags) had died or been exported, subject to any exceptions, there would be no animals that could be officially identified without use of an electronic tag.

The adoption of EID could be accelerated by introducing additional requirements for use of electronic ear tags in relation to the historical herd. However, a renumbering exercise may be required in order to replace a conventional ear tag with an electronic ear tag. Such a need may arise because the Scottish Government considers that official means of identification should be 'what you see is what you get' ('WYSIWYG'). With WYSIWYG, the number recorded on the database is the same as the number recorded on the tag electronically. If taking a WYSIWYG approach, the need for renumbering would arise if cattle in the historical herd are required to be identified with an electronic tag encoded using the applicable ISO standard for LF or UHF tags (such encoding cannot accommodate the number format currently used for cattle identification).

If the USDA standard were adopted generally for EID in Scotland, there would be no need for renumbering of animals in the historical herd or for a different standard to be used for animals in the historical herd (the USDA standard can accommodate the current numbering format). If an ISO standard were adopted for new-born animals, adoption of the USDA standard for the historical herd would avoid the need for renumbering of animals in the historical herd when retagged using EID. This would result in two different numbering formats for bovine EID being used at the same time.

Regardless of whether renumbering would be required, requirements for use of EID in the historical herd could be introduced in various ways. A date could be set by which all animals in the historical herd would be required to be retagged with an electronic tag. Together with a requirement that new-born cattle be identified with an electronic tag, this would result in universal requirement for bovine EID in Scotland. However, it would involve the need for retagging of animals even where there is no intention for them to be moved from their holding.

Alternatively, a requirement for use of EID for the historical herd could be 'event driven'. For example, the requirement to identify an animal with an electronic tag could be triggered by movement of the animal from its holding (e.g. to another holding or to a market). This would not in itself achieve universal requirement for use of EID but would ensure that third persons taking receipt of cattle from a keeper would enjoy the benefits of EID. In the absence of such an event, the Scottish Government could permit the use of electronic tags as official means of identification for animals in the historical herd, should the keeper wish to voluntarily retag the animal.

**Question 6** - Do you think that there should be a requirement to identify animals in the 'historical herd' (animals which are alive and are already identified) if and when EID is introduced?

**Question 7** – If so, should there be a requirement to apply EID to all animals in the historical herd by a certain date or should the need to use EID be 'event driven'?

## **PART 3 – Further Proposals and Costs**

### **Holding register**

The introduction of ScotMoves in Scotland in January 2017 heralded the partial introduction of an online holding register for Scottish cattle keepers. It allowed keepers to easily record within business movements (WBM's).

ScotMoves+ was introduced on 4 October 2021 and is used by all Scottish cattle keepers to report all births, movements and deaths on their holdings. The Scottish Government is now considering whether to introduce a fully online holding register.

A fully online holding register will be of benefit to those carrying out enforcement and inspection activities, would help to ensure staff can be deployed rapidly should that be required and would simplify the inspection process.

A fully online holding register has the potential to reduce delays in movement data being recorded centrally, meaning more timely and accurate notification to the Scottish Ministers. This data is important for disease prevention, control and eradication and the protection of public health and also reduces unnecessary risks in instances of disease outbreaks.

An online holding register would be a central and consolidated source of information which would be of assistance in tracing movements between farms, farms to market, market to farm and farm to abattoir would also be accurate. This would avoid obstacles and delay caused by partial paper-based and database recording.

Some of the expected benefits of use of an online holding register are as follows:

- markets and abattoirs would be able to record movements to the holding register (resulting in reduced admin burden for cattle keepers, albeit it would remain the keeper's responsibility to ensure such records were accurate),
- there would be a single data point (avoiding confusion and reconciliation between different records and different recording times),
- an audit check could be carried out to confirm that the electronic register matches the physical IDs of the animals on the farm and the numbers of animals on the farm,
- an audit check when EID is used would instantly confirm the register i.e. there is no intervening manual processes,
- it would help realise the full benefits of EID, and
- it could simplify inspection processes for keepers.

We note, however, that there will be cattle keepers who already have electronic holding registers with software packages linking to ScotEID. It is envisaged that keepers would be able to continue to use those systems. Keepers may want to do so given that they may keep 'management tag' to 'official ear tag' correlation tables within their records. It is recognised that some keepers may also be hesitant about moving to a wholly online system, given there may be keeper reliance on the on-farm holding register to confirm the birth, movement or death details to RPID inspectors.

## Reporting and recording timescales

In addition to requirements for information about cattle to be recorded in on-farm holding registers, there are currently requirements for information about cattle to be notified to the Scottish Ministers. There are differences between timescales for such notification and the timescales for recording movements in the on-farm holding register. As an example, keepers must currently notify movements on or off a holding to the Scottish Ministers within 3 days from the date of movement on or off the holding (using ScotMoves+ or by phone call to ScotEID) whilst keepers must update their on-farm holding register within 48 hours of such a movement taking place.

Time periods also vary between central notifications of births and recording same within the on-farm holding register, as shown in the table below.

Animal type	Deadline for central notification	Deadline for recording in holding register	Tagging deadline
Dairy	Up to date of application of second tag (up to 20 days from birth) plus 7 days	7 days after birth	First tag - 36 hours after birth. Second tag - 20 days from after birth*
Non-dairy	Up to date of application of second tag (up to 20 days from birth) plus 7 days	30 days after birth	Both tags - 20 days after birth*
Bison	7 days after birth	30 days after birth	9 months after birth*

*\*In all cases both tags must be fitted before leaving the holding of birth. For bison, also when separated from its mother.*

The time periods for recording deaths in holding registers and for notifying deaths to the Scottish Ministers are identical. Deaths must be recorded and notified within 7 days.

Given the duplication of data captured and differing timescales, consideration should also be given to aligning the timescales for central notification and recording information in the holding register, particularly of birth recording/reporting timescales of the three animal types in the table above.

The key benefit to alignment of reporting deadlines is better awareness of 'hooves on the ground' numbers, which would aid in both disease prevention and disease control.

**Question 8** – What are your views on introduction of an online holding register?

**Question 9** – Should reporting timescales for births, movements and deaths for holding registers and the central database be aligned?

**Question 10** - If yes, what should they be?

**Cattle passports**

In Scotland passports are issued to keepers via ScotEID. Should bovine EID be introduced, it is proposed that bovine animals will no longer require a paper passport and exchanges will be notified electronically. If required, keepers will be given an option to print off a document (including either a barcode, QR code – or both) containing the passport details from ScotEID to enable movements to other parts of UK.

The Scottish Industry should see benefits in the reduction of paper passports including reduced administrative burden for keepers (throughout the production chain), markets and abattoirs. Removal of paper passports will also lead to significant savings in terms of production costs to the Scottish Government. This is covered in the Business Regulatory Impact Assessment which is included as part of this consultation.

**Question 11** – What are your views on the removal of paper passports?



## **PART 4 – Consultation Questions**

The consultation questions are listed below. When considering these, we ask that you take into consideration the information provided in this document alongside any other knowledge or personal experiences that could be relevant. All opinions are welcome. We ask that you use either the online Citizen Space facility or the consultation questionnaire provided to respond to this consultation as this will help with our analysis of responses. Please try to answer all of the questions however, if you are unable to answer any particular question then please feel free to move on to the next one.

The questionnaire and on-line facility will also ask questions relating to your interest in this matter. This will aid in the analysis of the responses to this consultation. In order for us to deal with your response appropriately in terms of making responses publicly available, please ensure that you complete a Respondent Information Form (RIF). This will ensure that if you ask for your response not to be published that we regard it as confidential and will treat it accordingly.

**Question 1** – Do you support use of electronic ear tags as an official means of identification in cattle?

**Question 2** – Should ultra-high frequency (UHF) or low frequency (LF) technology be used?

**Question 3** – Do you support the use of any other forms of electronic identification as official means of identification (either as primary or secondary identification)?

**Question 4** – Do you agree that there should be a legal requirement for new-born cattle to be identified with electronic ear tags?

**Question 5** – If yes to Question 4, should current tagging exemptions remain or should other categories of animals be exempted?

**Question 6** - Do you think that there should be a requirement to identify animals in the 'historical herd' (animals which are alive and are already identified) if and when EID is introduced?

**Question 7** – If so, should there be a requirement to apply EID to all animals in the historical herd by a certain date or should the need to use EID be 'event driven'?

**Question 8** – What are your views on introduction of an online holding register?

**Question 9** – Should reporting timescales for births, movements and deaths for holding registers and the central database be aligned?

**Question 10** - If yes, what should they be?

**Question 11** – What are your views on the removal of paper passports?

## **About the consultation**

This consultation seeks to gather and understand your views on a number of areas including and related to bovine EID. If you feel there are any related matters not covered to your satisfaction, the following questions are there to provide you with the opportunity to raise such points, and to provide us with feedback on the consultation itself.

**Question 12** - Do you have any other comments on the way this consultation has been conducted?

**Question 13** – Do you consider that the consultation explained the key issues sufficiently to properly consider your response?

**Question 14** - Do you consider that you had sufficient time to respond to the consultation?

**Question 15** - Do you have any other comments regarding any proposed future changes to the cattle ID Regulations?



© Crown copyright 2024



This publication is licensed under the terms of the Open Government Licence v3.0 except where otherwise stated. To view this licence, visit [nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3](https://nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3) or write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: [psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk).

Where we have identified any third party copyright information you will need to obtain permission from the copyright holders concerned.

This publication is available at [www.gov.scot](http://www.gov.scot)

Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at

The Scottish Government  
St Andrew's House  
Edinburgh  
EH1 3DG

ISBN: 978-1-83601-038-8 (web only)

Published by The Scottish Government, April 2024

Produced for The Scottish Government by APS Group Scotland, 21 Tennant Street, Edinburgh EH6 5NA  
PPDAS1429714 (04/24)

W W W . g o v . s c o t