

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN:

complementing Scotland's Honey Bee Health Strategy 2022-32

Introduction:

This Implementation Plan complements [Scotland's 10-year Honey Bee Health Strategy \(2022-32\)](#) and will be a living document detailing the specific actions which the Bee Health Improvement Partnership (BHIP) will deliver in order to achieve the desired outcomes for honey bee health in Scotland. The Plan will be updated regularly following quarterly Bee Health Improvement Partnership (BHIP) meetings.

The actions, key issues and objectives identified in the Implementation Plan will be based on the following 5 pillars:

- Pillar 1: Education, Training and Knowledge Transfer. The BHIP will work on improving the level of education and knowledge of the Scottish Beekeeping community on all issues relating to honey bees.
- Pillar 2: Communication and partnership working across government, operational partners, stakeholders, and all of those with an interest in honey bees in Scotland. The BHIP will ensure regular and effective communication between all parties through the quarterly meetings of the BHIP. Key issues will be identified, communicated to the beekeeping community as and when required using the most efficient communication strategies.
- Pillar 3: Pest and Disease surveillance, prevention, diagnosis, and control. The BHIP will work in partnership on the development and implementation of effective strategies for Surveillance, Prevention, Diagnosis and Control of honey bee pests and diseases. The BHIP will continue to emphasise the importance of promoting effective biosecurity and good standards of husbandry.
- Pillar 4: Research and Development: The BHIP will ensure that decisions, bee health policy, disease prevention and control strategies are underpinned by sound science and evidence. The BHIP will identify areas requiring further research and development, working in partnership with the scientific and beekeeping community and to commission/recommend research which could make a positive impact on bee health in Scotland.
- Pillar 5: On-going review of the regulatory framework: The BHIP will work in partnership with the Scottish Government to ensure that the legislative framework and enforcement powers are adequate for the achievement of the objectives of the honey bee health strategy.

The BHIP acknowledges that identified key issues and objectives will usually require actions across several pillars.

The Plan will:

- Reflect and record identified key issues/challenges and actions required to reach desired objectives by the BHIP for improving bee health in Scotland.
- Actions will follow the SMART principle:
 - Specific: The BHIP will identify and clearly state the action(s) required to address each issue and assign ownership to specific member(s) of the BHIP.
 - Measurable: The BHIP will measure the impact of each action and will aim to increase efficiency by achieving the highest possible benefit measuring resources involved. Actions will be reviewed against progress and timescales at each quarterly meeting. In addition, an annual report (detailing key successes as well as identifying areas requiring further work) will be made to the Steering Group detailing the progress made through the year.
 - Achievable: The BHIP will ensure that actions identified are achievable and measured against the available resources.
 - Realistic: The BHIP will ensure that actions identified are within the limitation of resources available. Actions will be prioritised and continually reviewed in order of urgency and importance.
 - Time bound: A timescale for completion of each action will be set in agreement with the BHIP members bearing in mind the rest of the SMART principles.

and will detail the priority of each activity using the following approach (noting that regular re-prioritisation reviews will take place at BHIP meetings):

- Short-term - priorities will be those deemed as urgent or of immediate importance to achieve the desired objectives. BHIP members will focus attention to these and they will be reviewed/updated at each BHIP meeting whilst open.
- Medium-term - priorities will be those deemed as important but not urgent to achieve the desired objectives on honey bee health in Scotland. These will be reviewed regularly by BHIP members and brought to BHIP meetings when requiring updating or reviewed.
- Longer-term - priorities will be those which are deemed by the BHIP to be desirable but not as urgent or having the level of impact on bee health across Scotland as those identified above. These will be recorded and might have potential dates for review. These will not be reviewed at BHIP meetings, but by members during the preparation for BHIP meetings, and only brought to the forum if changes are required.
- Completed activities.

Table of key issues / specific actions

Issue: Varroa controls in Scotland

Introduction: Varroa became reportable in Scotland in April 2021 through the Bee Diseases and Pest Control (Scotland) Amendment Order 2021 and continues to be considered one of the main causes for colony losses across the world, not only due to the physical damage caused by the parasite but also through the transmission of pathogens. Therefore, effective Varroa management continues to be one of the main challenges for beekeepers around the world.

Scotland faces a set of very particular challenges in terms of Varroa control, for instance, our climate and short season means that treatment capabilities are reduced, for example the lack of guarantees regarding sufficiently warmer temperatures during the season make some treatments inefficient in Scotland.

Action (SMART)	Owner / Lead	Priority	Update (to be advised at quarterly BHIP)	What has been delivered
1. Fact Finding:				
1.1: To complete a mapping exercise to identify current distribution of Varroa in Scotland identifying possible areas where Varroa is currently not present.	SASA	Annually		31.08.23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SASA produced a map with what is believed to be the current distribution of Varroa in Scotland (as of May 2023) and to highlight areas where particular care is needed. Also that Colonsay and Oronsay are Black Bee reserves. This will be updated annually to take into account new reports.
1.2: Communication of Varroa mapping exercise and guidance to beekeepers on best practice to protect these areas.	SG-Policy SBA	Annually		31.08.23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The honey bee health team designed a poster and flyer containing the map and advice for beekeepers. A communication strategy has been developed to raise awareness. As part of the strategy, the poster and flyers were on display in the Honey Tent at the Royal Highland Show (June 2023), Lorraine Johnston (SRUC) produced an article for the SBA magazine

				<p>promoting the map and the SBA have posted the map on their Facebook pages. Copies have been issued to all local associations in Scotland where they were invited to promote the map by displaying posters in their local area. A copy of the flyer was also added to BeeBase.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The communication strategy will be updated prior to next season with further plans e.g. display at targeted ferry ports in 2024.
1.3: Varroa Working Group	Matthew Richardson	ongoing	<p>12.12.23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The third meeting of the reconvened VWG took place on 27 September where the discussion focussed on questions posed by the group to the VMD, who had a representative attend the meeting. There were useful discussions on medicine records, information contained on product leaflets for Varroa treatments, issues around selling wax for recycling from treated brood boxes, potential residues in honey and honey sampling. The next meeting will take place early 2024. 	
2. Training and education:				
2.1: To develop a Scottish specific training package on Varroa.	SRUC (under the Varroa Working Group).	Short-term (by May 2024)	<p>12.12.23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Varroa learning package group have met three times and are making progress. They are producing a guide of information which is already available and have developed learning materials for one topic. SMART objectives have been produced and the project aims to be finished by May 2024. The materials will be stored on the new SRUC beekeeping website which is in development. 	<p>31.08.23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A short life working group is being set up to take forward the Varroa Learning Package. The Terms of Reference have been written up and the first meeting will take place in September. A group of volunteers has been established to be part of the working group.
2.2: To re-instate Bee Health Days	SG-Policy SG-Delivery	Short-term		31.08.23

	SASA SRUC BHIP reps.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hobbyist Day – Saturday 17 June 2023 (Coatbridge) –well attended and well received by participants.
2.3: To develop an implementation plan for delivery of Varroa training package across Scotland.	SRUC SG- Delivery	Medium-term	15.11.22 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consideration to be given to a project where local representatives from local associations are trained on foulbrood identification and could form part of a surveillance network across Scotland. 	<i>Will be picked up as part of the SRUC education package</i>
3. Updated Guidance:				
3.1: Create Scottish specific Varroa management guidance e.g. treatments most suitable for using in Scotland / advice on timings for these treatments / correct use, disposal, and efficacy of Varroa treatments.	Varroa WG SBA	Medium-term (by March 2024)	14.02.23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lorraine Johnston (SRUC) via the Varroa Working Group is taking forward the development of a number of training packages and presentations on the subject. 	
3.2: Working with VMD, clarify labelling instructions, common applications and include information in Scottish specific Varroa guidance.	SG-Policy	Medium-term	12.12.23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The VWG and SG will continue to take these issues forward in future discussions with the VMD and following the September meeting of the VWG, the group agreed to create guidance on legal treatments with simplified interpretation and basic guidance a beekeeper would need i.e. what to use, how and when. 	
4. Regulatory activity:				
4.1: Liaison with the Veterinary Medicines Directorate and the Food Standards Scotland regarding misuse of medicines and potential residues in Honey. In addition, the availability of effective medications for honey bees and review how to optimise treatments for use in Scotland and be most efficient in management techniques (including discussions prior to removing any	SG-Policy	Medium-term	31.08.23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In addition to the questions raised by the Varroa Working Group, the SG arranged a small working group which met on 7 June to discuss this issue. The SG Honey Bee Health Team provided field information and intelligence to the FSS and VMD in order to guide their policy. Both FSS and VMD have taken the information and will look at a review of current policy and official controls. Luis 	

approved medication and what replacement products will be available).			Molero has produced an article on the issue of honey fraud and residues which will appear in the September edition of the SBA magazine.	
4.2: Consideration of process requirements for establishing officially free Varroa areas in Scotland.	SG-Policy	Longer-term	31.08.23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This links into the Varroa mapping work carried out by SASA and the Communication Strategy developed by SG where communication went out about Varroa areas to the beekeeping sector. This will continue to be taken forward in conjunction with the Varroa Working Group and remains a longer term action. 	

Issue: EFB control

Introduction: European Foulbrood (EFB) is a notifiable disease of honey bees in Scotland which means that anyone that suspects EFB on their colonies has a legal obligation to contact the Bee Inspectorate.

The discovery of the outbreak of EFB in Perthshire during 2009 determined much of the work that the SG Bee Health Inspectorate carried out over the last 10-years. There have been great advances since then with levels of infection being significantly reduced and SG Inspectors now finding mostly low levels of infection at earlier stages. New strategies may be required in order to further reduce infection rates, for example, taking on board scientific studies and our own experience, it has become clear that effective EFB treatment requires action at an apiary level. This brings a number of challenges (particularly for commercial beekeepers with larger apiaries where the financial impact may be considerable)

Action (SMART)	Owner	Priority	Update (to be advised at quarterly BHIP)	What has been delivered
1. EFB control plan				
1.1: Review current EFB Control plan measures on infected apiaries to reflect evolving knowledge on EFB spread and control.	SG-Policy	Medium-term (by March 2024)	12.12.23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Honey Bee Health Team met on 23 November to discuss the effectiveness of the plan, future strategy and priorities for 2024. It was agreed the plan requires work to shape it more appropriately for the future and a paper will be put to the BHIP to consider ahead of a EFB workshop in early 2024. 	
1.2: Run a revalidation certification course for EFB control plan signatories every 3 years as minimum.	SG-Delivery SASA	2026		31.08.23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under the direction of the delivery lead for bee health, SASA and SRUC, the 2023 EFB certification course took place on Thursday 11 May in Perth where each business taking part in the plan attended the mandatory training event.
2. Regulatory framework				
2.1: Review of possible compulsory registration of beekeepers in Scotland (supporting effective disease control measures by identifying potential contact colonies easily)	SG-Policy	Longer-term (See section 4.1 under additional issues and		

		longer term goals)		
3. Education and Training				
3.1: Delivery of a minimum of five presentations per year on notifiable diseases and pests, recognition, reporting and control to the Scottish Beekeeping Community.	SRUC SASA SG-Delivery	Annual Target	12.12.23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A presentation was delivered to Spey Beekeepers Association on 5th September on disease recognition and biosecurity following an outbreak of EFB discovered in the Nethybridge area. 	31.08.23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentations were delivered to Polkemmet and East Lothian associations, with other local associations invited along, following the AFB/EFB outbreak in Lothian. Eighty five beekeepers attended over two evenings. SRUC has developed and delivered presentations on responsible beekeeping, disease prevention and how to do a disease inspection. Over 20 presentations to local associations. <p>Annual target exceeded in 2023.</p>
3.2: Delivery of one Bee Health Day per year to the Scottish beekeeping community with practical and theory presentations on notifiable diseases, pests, Varroa control and other relevant Bee Health Issues.	SRUC SASA SBA SG-Delivery	Annual Target		31.08.23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As detailed in section 2.2 of 'Varroa Controls in Scotland' Hobbyist Day – Saturday 17 June 2023 (Coatbridge) –well attended and well received by participants.
4. Surveillance, Disease Control Strategy.				
4.1: Developing a proportional and expert Bee Health Team in Scotland able to deliver statutory Bee Health activities across Scotland.	SASA SG-Delivery SG-Policy SRUC	Ongoing	12.12.23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work is ongoing to maintain a fully resourced team of bee inspectors across the country able to respond to disease outbreaks and carry out risk based targeted inspections. For 2023 inspection season, specifically targeted surveillance inspections were carried out around disease outbreaks focusing on previous two years infection exposure. Nine beekeepers with EFB and 	

			one beekeeper with AFB were identified through this targeted surveillance approach.	
4.2: Expedient and timely communication with beekeepers about nearby notifiable disease outbreaks including what to do when outbreaks occur and notification when the disease outbreak has ended.	SG-Delivery SG-Policy	Annually		<p>31.08.23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SG Officials have carried out prompt and effective comms ensuring the beekeeping community are made aware of any outbreaks in a timely manner with clear information on what this means and next steps. With unprecedented levels of AFB and EFB found in 2023, the Environment Minister, Gillian Martin wrote to Scotland's beekeepers to remind them of action which can and should be taken to help maintain the health and wellbeing of honey bees.
5. Research and Development of EFB in Scotland				
5.1: Validation of PCR test from live bees to identify subclinical infection of EFB in honey bee colonies. Publish a report with findings and potential applications for surveillance, diagnosis, and control strategies.	SASA SG-Delivery	Medium-term (December 2023)		<p>31.08.23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of the 'sub-clinical' EFB molecular screening using adult bees has continued, with targeted sampling of defined beekeepers and apiaries as agreed at start of season with the Bee Inspections Lead, Claire Gill. Results have informed disease management decisions and advice to beekeepers, whilst further contributing towards the method development and validation. • Samples of foulbrood from all positive apiaries have been strain typed and the outcomes have informed 'on

				<p>the ground' disease control and surveillance decisions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SASA lab has continued to provide traditional diagnostic services for EFB and AFB.
<p>5.2: Use PCR test to carry out surveillance exercise across Scotland to identify the prevalence of subclinical EFB across Scottish apiaries. Produce report for publication. Proposals on application of PCR test to guide surveillance and support disease control strategy.</p>	SASA	<p>Longer-term (December 2023)</p>	<p>12.12.23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviewing options and costs for a 2024 random Scotland-wide foulbrood/ EFB survey using sub-clinical molecular testing methods. 	<p>12.12.23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed strain typing on a sample from all EFB and AFB affected apiaries from 2023 inspections and produced a summary report for SG policy & inspections. Provided data from sub-clinical EFB testing carried out so far to BIOSs statisticians for review and analysis. Initial report received on 6 December and is being reviewed.

Issue: Interaction of honey bees with the environment and other pollinators

Introduction: Emerging scientific evidence indicates that managed pollinators, even when native as honey bees are in Scotland, could potentially have a detrimental effect on wild pollinators and fragile ecosystems. The circumstances under which conflict between managed pollinators and wild pollinators occurs are often complex and difficult to unravel. It is therefore important to understand the potential risks posed by competition, changes in plant communities and disease cross-transmission resulting from use of managed honey bees and pollinators (bumble bees) under Scottish conditions; however relevant scientific evidence is not currently widely available. Research, education, and open dialogue with all involved will be key to fully understanding and mitigating these risks.

It is key that beekeepers are provided with the appropriate education to ensure awareness of these potential issues and, whilst the evidence base remains limited, understand the importance of maintaining sustainable levels of healthy honey bees as this not only benefits their bees but potentially also mitigates the risk to wild populations. The BHIP will continue to strengthen partnership working with other interested parties in order to promote good beekeeping practices, increase honey bee health (and therefore minimise potential risk of disease overspill) and maintain the reputation of beekeeping in Scotland as a sustainable and environmentally positive practice.

Action (SMART)	Owner	Priority	Update (to be advised at quarterly BHIP)	What has been delivered
1. Education				
1.1: Encourage promotion and engagement with NatureScot and their Pollinator Strategy through established programme of talks / introduction of blogs, magazine articles	All	Ongoing	12.12.23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The SBA are working on creating a new sections on environmental issues, pollinators and 'ethical beekeeping' for the new SBA website due spring 2024. 	14.02.23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SRUC have presented on the topic of pollination at the Royal Highland Show, SBA Conference and the Peebles beekeepers' association. In addition, SRUC attended a pollinators conference which involved organisational partners such as NatureScot & Buglife.
2. Interaction and cooperation with other areas				
2.1: Gathering information on what research is currently being undertaken	SASA / SRUC	Ongoing	12.12.23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A four year PhD studentship at the University of Edinburgh started Sep 23 and is investigating 'Interactions of managed bees and wild pollinators in natural environments'. The aim of this 	15.11.22 Sound scientific data to underpin and guide future policy decisions is important and SASA are progressing with gathering information to

			studentship is to gather Scotland-relevant data on potential impact of beekeeping/managed bees to wild pollinators. This can be used to directly inform responsible beekeeping guidance, mitigations for bee farmers (if necessary) and policy.	determine what research is currently ongoing and what research will be required in the future.
2.2: Promotion of related issues such as biodiversity / the interaction of managed honey bees with other pollinators / land use / climate change / plant health / wildlife issues	(depending on the task)	Ongoing		<p>09.05.23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SASA has delivered a talk on 'the impact of managed bees on wild pollinators' to North Ayrshire beekeepers' association (NABA) – attendance was 18 in person and 21 online. SRUC have given out free wildflower seeds and guidelines on their use at every event and talk attended as well as addressing the issue of responsible beekeeping when meeting with beekeeping associations. <p>31.08.23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SRUC have delivered four talks given by SRUC to groups on honey bees and pollination and written an article for SRUC Agri business magazine on beekeeping and farming. SBA have been having ongoing discussions around the issues under the umbrella topic of 'ethical beekeeping' and the scope for beekeeping alongside other pollinators.
2.3: Widely promoting information to interested / relevant partners / general public / land owners / farmers / councils, for example on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> impact of pesticides impact on the loss of local biodiversity and climate change 	(depending on the task)	Ongoing	<p>31.08.23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work is planned with SRUC crofting and Highland and Islands on pollination including events, blogs, podcasts, videos 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• encourage Councils to grow more wildflowers and encourage naturalisation by leaving verges to grow and not cutting the grass short by roadsides and parks.• monitoring of the density of hives/colonies to ensure there is not over-crowding in certain areas				
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Additional issues and longer term goals

The following points have been identified through BHIP discussions, the 'future planning' section of the review of the 1st strategy and the Survey, but currently don't fit into the specific areas identified above.

It is important that the following issues are kept 'live' and delivered when appropriate. The BHIP will, at their quarterly meetings, regularly review the following information and highlight, add, or amend any specific issue(s) they wish to progress by creating a SMART action.

Additional issues and longer term goals	Lead	Suggested way forward
1. Availability and access of education		
1.1: Promotion of the wide ranging education initiatives already available in Scotland including the BFA Apprenticeship Scheme and utilising skills which are obtainable from the SBA.	BHIP	09.05.23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SRUC has produced advice for bee related careers. • NDB planning to run a 'Train the Trainer' course in autumn 2023.
1.2: Explore the use of technology, e.g. online training material and presentations providing approved and trusted training to remote beekeeping communities and those who are not members of associations.	BHIP	09.05.23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SRUC has provided on-line talks to four beekeeping associations and one on-line talk to animal care students. • In addition, SRUC have completed an online webinar for the SBA and is planning to use SRUC's zoom platform. 31.08.23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SRUC has now developed three podcasts with more planned. Also a beekeeping section on the SRUC website is in development for access for all with advice for beekeepers. Training at local associations planned to be more targeted to that group.
1.3: Promote different formats of ways to learn e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>bite-sized online training courses, classroom based, hive side training and mentoring</i> ○ <i>Pre-recorded demos/videos, live webinars</i> ○ <i>Training at local associations (more tailored to specific environments)</i> ○ <i>Partnership working with SBA on magentrix</i> 	BHIP	14.02.23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work on the Magentrix system is progressing in the hope that it will be up and running within the next quarter. • SRUC has developed educational resources in a variety of different formats including online talks, email advice, recommended video playlists and reading lists, pollen slide guides, Sway* information and links, a virtual classroom, and a

		podcast. In addition, SRUC are planning to produce educational videos through FAS TV. <i>*Sway is an app from Microsoft Office that creates and shares interactive reports, personal stories, presentations, and more.</i>
1.4: Investigate development of educational training opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SQA Nat. 5/6 (delivers a practical science-based qualification, awareness of nature and understanding of food production). 	BHIP	31.08.23 The SQA have turned down the development of National 6 due to not being viable. SRUC have been interested in developing National 5 courses at their colleges and advice has been given. SRUC met with Australian representative to exchange ideas on teaching and learning in beekeeping for young people.

2. Co-ordination of education / training / knowledge transfer		
2.1: Standardisation of base level education programmes for the <u>hobbyist</u> sector (e.g. Varroa Management)	BHIP	31.08.23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SRUC has produced talks on Varroa management for associations and the Varroa learning package group will look at the standardisation of these programmes. 12.12.23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SRUC has started creating a curriculum for a standardised package for beginner courses relating to key messages in Scotland's Honey Bee Health Strategy.
2.2: Standardisation of base level education / training programmes for the <u>commercial</u> sector (e.g. EFB Control Plan / Biosecurity / Disease Management)	BHIP	14.02.23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training for the commercial beekeepers involved in the EFB control plan is being finalised, with an event planned for 11 May 2023.
2.3: R&D - communication on research findings, current developments e.g. via magazine contributions, blogs, web-pages, social media	BHIP	14.02.23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SRUC has written and shared many articles, videos, and blogs as well as a pod cast on preparing bees for winter. The specific SRUC beekeeping page can be found under SRUC's Vet Services webpages.

3. Sharing Best Practices / good communications		
3.1: Registering on BeeBase and why that is such an important tool / highlight the importance of keeping information up-to-date / promote what information is available e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emerging threats • Legal responsibilities 	BHIP	14.02.23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work continues on this. SRUC has highlighted that at every talk and event that they have given, they have issued registration forms

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Imports / Exports • Veterinary medicines issues • Food Standards Scotland issues • How to correctly source stock 		
<p>3.2: Utilise the SG Bee Health website and BeeBase effectively to ensure that Scottish interests are taken into account and easily identified.</p>	BHIP	<p>31.08.23</p> <p>There is a specific page on BeeBase for Beekeepers in Scotland which contains Scottish specific content. Work is underway to explore options to create a news item section and to upload Scottish specific content.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SBA and BFA continue to highlight BeeBase with their members.
<p>3.3: Developing communications and liaising with other interested parties (e.g. FSS, honey importers and packers), highlighting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the prevention of possible honey fraud and the safety and integrity of honey as a safe, natural product, free from pesticides, residues, and additives. • Awareness for packing plants to present a minimal risk of spreading pests and diseases to local honey bee apiaries by compartmentalising production systems to keep apiary equipment separate and clean. 	BHIP	

<p>4. Legislative Issues</p>		
<p>4.1: Compliance with the EU Animal Health Law: (e.g. compulsory registration leading to better engagement with beekeepers, better management, and control of pests/diseases)</p>	SG-Policy BHIP	<p>31.08.23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compliance with the EU Animal Health Law: (e.g. compulsory registration): this continues to be a long-term goal and SG Officials have contacted the SG Legal Directorate to ask about the most appropriate legislative vehicle for registration and how to take this forward. Work to start drafting a paper on recommendations and options for the Minister will begin towards the end of 2023. • During events and public talks, all group members should ensure that there are opportunities to discuss with beekeepers regarding the possibility of introducing compulsory registration of beekeepers and compulsory reporting of hive movements.
<p>4.2: Consideration with stakeholders to establish if there is a need or a will for enhanced regulation and enforcement (e.g. the introduction of Fixed Penalty Notices for those failing to report honey bee health notifiable diseases, breaking standstill orders after detection of</p>	BHIP	

disease or intentionally carrying out any other illegal activities which might pose a risk to bee health in Scotland.		
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5. Surveillance:		
5.1: Roll out an Annual Surveillance programme(s) (e.g. import/sentinel apiaries) potentially using self-inspections and posting of samples. This would complement the work of the official inspectorate and would ensure that Scotland does not lose the opportunity to reliably deliver the real health status of bees and beekeeping.	BHIP	
5.2: Surveillance of emerging threats for honey bee health such as Chronic Bee Paralysis Virus	BHIP, SRUC	31.08.23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SRUC has been in discussions with Peter Richard Rios, SRUC vet pathologist and Giles Budge from Newcastle University to discuss investigating Chronic Bee Paralysis. This is continuing into 2024.

6. Contingency Planning for current, new, and emerging threats		
6.1: Asian Hornet (ensuring that a coordinated approach is taken with other Government departments and that additional resources are available if required)	SG-Policy BHIP	12.12.23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An Asian Hornet contingency plan for Scotland is in its final stages and will be put before the Minister for sign-off prior to publication. This will be accompanied by comms to raise awareness. The Standard Operating Procedure is also in final draft. An on the ground contingency exercise will be carried out in 2024.
6.2: Small Hive Beetle (ensuring that a coordinated approach is taken with other Government departments and that additional resources are available if required)	BHIP	