



Craig Whittaker MP

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Response to Bovine TB and fox hounds – June 2017

Thank you for contacting me about the risk of fox hounds spreading bovine TB infection.

I am aware that dogs from the Kimblewick Hunt have been put down after contracting TB. Government veterinarians have provided advice to the Hunt, but hounds from the affected kennels have not been in contact with other hounds since TB was initially suspected.

On matters of biosecurity Ministers always take their decisions based on the best scientific and veterinary advice available, and the advice they have received is clear that dogs are not a major contributor to the spread of bovine TB. At this stage, therefore, no further action is considered to be necessary in relation to other hunts.

Bovine TB is the greatest animal health threat to the UK and causes devastation and distress for farmers and rural communities across the country. Ministers are delivering a 25-year strategy to eradicate this disease and protect the UK's dairy and beef industries. This includes strengthening cattle testing and movement controls, improving biosecurity and controlling badger populations where TB is rife.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Kind regards,

Craig Whittaker MP