**Organisation of Plant Health within the UK Government**

**The UK National Plant Protection Organisation (NPPO)**

The function of the National Plant Protection Organisation (NPPO) is provided by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, which represents the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (UK) in international and European fora. The head of the NPPO and Chief Plant Health Officer (CPHO) for the UK is Nicola Spence.

**The UK Plant Health Service**

The UK plant health service is a generic description of the units which co-operate to provide plant quarantine and plant certification services in England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, the Channel Isles and the Isle of Man. Information about the UK Plant Health Service is available at: <http://www.fera.defra.gov.uk/plants/plantHealth/>

 **Plant Health Policy**

The Plant Health Policy team is part of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), within the Directorate for Plant and Animal Health. It has policy responsibility for plant quarantine, plant certification and plant reproductive material in England and with the associated Office of the Chief Plant Health Officer (CPHO) provides the lead for the UK in international meetings.  It is the 'Single Central Authority’ for plant health in the UK under EU legislation. The Policy team and the Office of the Chief Plant Health Officer are based at sites near York (the National Agri-Food Innovation Campus, Sand Hutton), Cambridge and central London. Regular coordination takes place with the other parts of the Plant Health Service, at formal meetings every six months and regularly on an ad-hoc basis.

On 1st October 2014 plant health consultants, whose responsibilities include assessments of risks from particular pests and commodities and advice on interceptions and outbreaks, left the Food and Environment Research Agency (Fera) and joined the CPHO’s team within Defra’s Directorate for Plant and Animal Health. The consultants support the CPHO and the policy team in international, European and other meetings.

**Plant Health and Seeds Inspectorate**

On 1st October 2014 the Plant Health and Seeds Inspectorate (PHSI) became part of the new Animal and Plant Agency. It executes plant health policy in England and Wales under a Memorandum of Understanding with Defra and with the Welsh Government. PHSI carry out import, export, monitoring and survey inspections, issue phytosanitary certificates, and oversee import controls, plant passporting arrangements and eradication campaigns. They also issue scientific licences for work on prohibited pests and plants.  PHSI inspect and certify crops in relation to the statutory seed potato classification scheme and voluntary schemes on certain fruit and ornamental species and hops.  It carries out work on seed certification and enforcement for the Plant Variety and Seeds team within Defra’s Policy team. The Chief Inspector reports to APHA’s Chief Executive. There are about 40 local PHSI offices around the country; headquarters’ staff are based at Sand Hutton.

**Plant Health laboratory functions**

Pest and disease identification and diagnosis is carried out by the Pest and disease ID team, within the plant protection programme of the Food and Environment Research Agency, from samples submitted by PHSI. They also carry out research and development projects linked to the needs of the UK Plant Health Service.

 **Scottish Government**

The Scottish Government’s Agriculture, Food & Rural Communities (AFRC) Directorate is responsible for plant health issues within Scotland, except those in relation to pests of forest trees and wood.  The Scottish Government provides policy advice on plant health, plant and seed certification, and plays a major part in UK representation on matters relating to seed potato certification. Scottish Government inspectors in the Rural Payments and Inspections Division (RPID) and the Horticulture & Marketing Unit (HMU) in Science and Advice for Scottish Agriculture (SASA) conduct plant health controls including import and export inspections, plant passporting, issue of phytosanitary certificates, monitoring inspections, surveys and eradication campaigns.  RPID and HMU also carry out crop and produce inspections for statutory and voluntary certification schemes.  SASA provides scientific support by carrying out laboratory testing and pest identification and providing advice on monitoring, interceptions and outbreaks. SASA issues licences for scientific work on prohibited pests and plants in Scotland and operates the Seed Potato Classification Scheme for Scotland and the UK Potato Quarantine Unit. The Scottish Government main offices and SASA are in Edinburgh, with RPID Area Offices located throughout Scotland.

Website: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/farmingrural/Agriculture/plant> and [www.sasa.gov.uk](http://www.sasa.gov.uk/)

 **Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (Northern Ireland)**

The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (Northern Ireland) (DARDNI) is responsible for policy and technical matters relating to plant health and seed certification within Northern Ireland, including forestry matters. A project is underway, for completion by the end of June 2014, to transfer Plant health policy and implementation functions to Forest Service which is an agency of the Department. DARD carries out import, export, monitoring and survey inspections, issues phytosanitary certificates, and oversees import controls, plant passporting arrangements and eradication campaigns and issue scientific licences for work on prohibited pests and plants. Inspectors are located throughout NI with senior staff based at Dundonald House, Belfast. Scientific support is provided by the Agri-food Biosciences Institute (AfBI). AfBI carries out laboratory testing and pest identification as well as providing advice on monitoring, outbreaks and pest management. Website: [www.dardni.gov.uk](http://www.dardni.gov.uk) and [www.afbini.gov.uk](http://www.afbini.gov.uk)

 **Welsh Assembly Government – Sustainability and Rural Development Department**

Welsh Ministers' plant health functions (trees) are delegated to both the Forestry Commissioners and the Natural Resources Body for Wales.  They are each responsible for different functions.  The Forestry Commissioners are responsible for functions as they relate to the import of material from third countries and the movement of material in the European Union, including the issue of plant passports and the registration of forestry traders.  Both bodies are responsible for the authorisation of persons as inspectors, but for different purposes:  those authorised by the Forestry Commissioners undertake inspection and enforcement activity in relation to the premises of registered forestry traders; and those authorised by the Natural Resources Body for Wales undertake inspection and enforcement activity in relation to all other premises.

All plant health policy is handled by the Land, Nature and Forestry Division of the Welsh Government based in Cardiff.

Websites: [www.wales.gov.uk/](http://www.wales.gov.uk/%20%20)

and <http://naturalresourceswales.gov.uk/?lang=en>

**Forestry Commission**

The Forestry Commission Plant Health Service is responsible within England and Scotland for all matters related to forestry pests. It carries out inspections of imported forest products and surveys throughout Great Britain and supports the delivery of eradication and containment programmes by operational teams in each of the 3 countries. It issues licences for scientific work on prohibited forest tree pests and plants and phytosanitary certificates for wood products. The Forestry Commission is responsible for the registration and control of forest reproductive material and its Forest Research Agency provides scientific advice on the control of pests and diseases, represents forestry interests in certain international fora, carries out pest risk assessments and provides an identification service for pests and diseases intercepted at points of entry or at forest survey sites. The Plant Health Service is based at the Forestry Commission’s Edinburgh offices. The Forest Research Agency provides various services for the Forestry Commission, including consultancy, risk analysis and laboratory services.
Website: [www.forestry.gov.uk/planthealth](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/planthealth)

**Jersey and Guernsey (the Channel Isles) and the Isle of Man**

These Crown Dependencies have their own Plant Health Services and co-operate closely with the UK services.  In the IPPC and some other international fora they are represented by Defra’s Plant Health Policy team.  Jersey and Guernsey are independent members of the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organisation (EPPO).

**Responsibility for Related Areas of Work**

* **Pesticides**

Policy responsibility for pesticide regulation in the UK is jointly shared by a number of Government Departments, but the Chemicals Regulation Directorate (CRD) of the Health and Safety Executive takes the lead on agricultural and horticultural pesticides. CRD is based in central York. [www.pesticides.gov.uk](http://www.pesticides.gov.uk/)

* **Certification of plant reproductive material, variety registration and plant variety rights**

Certification of plant reproductive material (except seed potatoes and forestry) is the responsibility of Defra, Scottish Government, Welsh Government and DARDNI in their respective territories, with services delivered by APHA, the National Institute of Agricultural Botany, SASA and AFBI. The same organisations jointly manage and deliver UK-wide services for variety registration and plant variety rights. Defra’s Varieties and Seeds Policy team, based in Cambridge, has responsibility for representing the UK in the EU and international fora.

The Forestry Commission is responsible for all matters covered by the Forest Reproductive Material Regulations in Great Britain with technical support being provided by Forest Research. The FRM unit is based at the Forestry Commission’s Edinburgh offices**.** <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/frm>

* **EU Marketing Standards for Fruit and Vegetables**

Marketing standards are applicable for a wide range of fresh horticultural produce.  In England and Wales, policy is provided by the Crops & Horticulture Policy Delivery team within Defra’s Directorate for Rural Development, Sustainable Communities & Crop.  Responsibility for visiting and undertaking conformity checks throughout the marketing chain lies with the Horticultural Marketing Inspectorate which is part of the Rural Payments Agency. Their website is:  <http://www.rpa.gov.uk/rpa/index.nsf/home>.

In Scotland, the same responsibility rests with the Scottish Government’s Agriculture, Food & Rural Communities (AFRC) Directorate, with policy advice from Agriculture and Rural Development Division and conformity checks undertaken by the Horticulture and Marketing Unit. In Northern Ireland the responsibility for undertaking conformity checks lies with Plant Health Horticulture Inspectorate within DARD.