

Welcome

This publication provides updates for colleagues and partners across UKHSA, OHID and the Overseas Territories.

If you have any queries, feedback or contributions please contact: UKOTs.Programme@ukhsa.gov.uk

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Farwell Ian Walker!

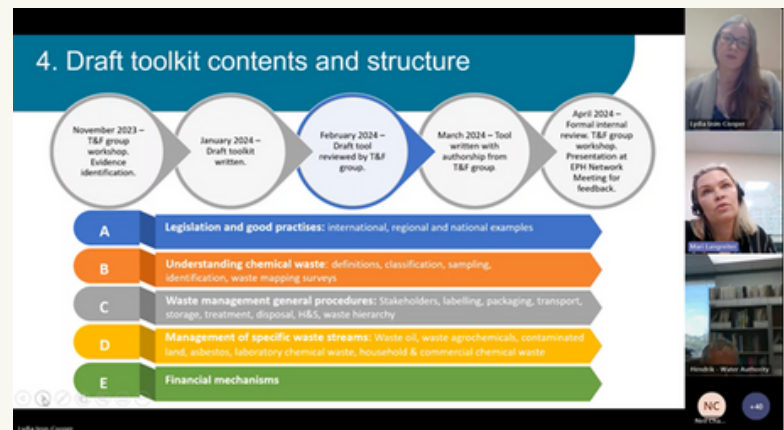
Media Spotlight

Network Spotlight: Environmental Public Health Network

The Environmental Public Health Network was launched in May 2023, with the purpose of providing a forum to share knowledge and experience between territories, discuss and share challenges, good practice, guidance, policies and legislation; as well as to support capability and capacity development, share information on resources, events, guidance, research and other relevant information. It also serves as a forum to identify needs and take action to address these, including through Task and Finish Groups to deliver agreed outputs.

The network, via the Task and Finish Groups has progressed agreed activities on a self-assessment risk awareness and capacity toolkit, e-learning, oil spills, waste management a framework for good practice in chemical risk management.

The network is open to anyone and can be joined by emailing lydia.izon-cooper@ukhsa.gov.uk.



Behavioural Science: E-learning

As part of our ongoing offer of Behavioural Science training courses across the UKOTs, in December, Dr Dale Weston and Riinu Pae presented at CARPHA's second annual review and capacity building meeting of the national non-communicable diseases (NCDs), nutrition, and mental health focal points network, entitled: "Empowering Change: Surveillance Systems and Strategic Frameworks for NCD Prevention and Control". This event was hosted on 11-12 December 2023 in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago (though Dale and Riinu attended virtually) and was attended by delegates from Caribbean nations and Territories.

The presentation focused on developing and implementing behavioural interventions, with a particular focus on pragmatic approaches that could be used in resource-limited contexts. In this session, the delegates were encouraged to adopt a systematic approach to intervention development and implementation, make use of community links and information they already had access to, and conduct rapid research and community engagement if the "gold standard" insight gathering and co-production approaches were not feasible (e.g. by doing radio phone-ins and seeking feedback informally).

This training is currently available on request from the Behavioural Science and Insights Unit alongside other training focused on an introduction to behavioural science and an introduction to quantitative and qualitative research methods. Furthermore, we are currently developing a comprehensive community engagement training package, which we are co-producing with colleagues across the UKOTs through 1-hour workshops. If you would like more information about any of the training, or to be part of these workshops, please contact: dale.weston@ukhsa.gov.uk, riinu.pae@ukhsa.gov.uk, or virginia.bertelli@ukhsa.gov.uk.

Wishing Ian Walker all the best for his next chapter!

The time has come for Ian to embark on a new chapter in his professional journey. The UKOTs team want to express our heartfelt farewell and extend our warmest wishes for success in his next job in a local public health team in Barnsley, Yorkshire. Working alongside Ian has been a great experience for us all, and we have truly valued the contributions he's made to our team.

Ian's dedication, expertise, and supportive nature have not only enriched our team but have also left an indelible mark within the UKOTs themselves. Ian's passion for improving mental health and chronic disease burden across the UKOTs has been unsurpassed. His approachable, honest and candid manner has enabled many great, trusted relationships to form with our UKOTs colleagues. Whilst we will miss his presence in the team, his departure paves the way for exciting opportunities and adventures that lie ahead for him.

We hope you will join us in wishing Ian the best in his new job and all his future endeavours. Thank you, farewell, and good luck, Ian!



Media Spotlight

JANUARY 11, 2024

Post

expert reaction to press release from APHA reporting avian influenza having been detected in mammals in the sub-Antarctica for the first time



MINISTER HENRY MEETS WITH HEALTH OFFICIALS IN GIBRALTAR

As part of a wider overseas trip, during this week Minister for Health and Social Care Martin Henry has been in Gibraltar meeting with various elected and health officials.

Minister Henry has travelled to Gibraltar build links between the two Overseas Territories, to gain an understanding of the how healthcare operates in Gibraltar, and to exchange knowledge on approaches and best practices.

The trip has been facilitated by the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), and has included visits to the key healthcare facilities in the territory, and meetings with senior officials from the Gibraltar Health Agency, and Gibraltar Care Agency.

Minister Henry also met with his counterpart, the newly appointed Minister of Health Gemma Vasquez, and with Deputy Chief Minister Dr Joseph Garcia.

On his visit to Gibraltar Minister Henry commented:

"It was a pleasure to meet with my counterparts in Gibraltar and I am grateful to them for taking the time to do so. Whilst very different territories the similarities between Gibraltar and St Helena are remarkable. We both have ageing demand led populations, with high incidents of smoking and non-communicable diseases, placing pressures on the health budgets."

"A new care facility was completed in 2017, however this is already close to capacity and there is limited space to develop another. The cost of providing domiciliary and respite care, along with an increasing incident of dementia, is similarly significant, although access to a labour force is not an issue for Gibraltar due to their proximity to Spain."

"Meeting with colleagues in Gibraltar has been invaluable, and I'm excited to continue to build the relationship between the two territories and our health systems following my return to the Island."

Dr Matthew Dryden, Consultant in Infection, UK Overseas Territories Program, said:

"The FCDO funded UK Overseas Territories Program which is part of UKHSA works closely with the Government of South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands (GSGSSI) and the British Antarctic survey (BAS) and APHA to give public health and clinical advice. Although it is sad that HPAI has reached the south Atlantic and is affecting wildlife including some mammals, this was anticipated following the outbreaks in the northern hemisphere where mammals have also been affected. Genomic sequencing of the virus suggests that there is no mammal to mammal transmission. In other words, the seals are acquiring the virus from sick birds on land. With the strong biosecurity measures in place, there is no risk to human health at present and the situation continues to be monitored closely."



St Helena
Government

The UK Overseas Territories (UKOTs) Programme has been ongoing since 2016 and is funded by the Conflict, Security and Stability Fund (CSSF) through the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO). UKHSA is the implementing partner with support from the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) at DHSC.