

3rd August 2026



National Sheep Association

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Kevin Stannard

West District Director and Deputy Surveyor for the Forest of Dean
Forestry England
Bank House
Bank Street
Coleford
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GL16 8BA

Dear Mr Stannard,

I am writing on behalf of the National Sheep Association (NSA) to request information regarding Forestry England's management strategy for the wild boar population in the Forest of Dean in the event of a notifiable disease outbreak, such as Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD).

The NSA has a number of members who graze sheep on the commons within the Forest of Dean, as well as on privately owned land bordering the forest. We have received increasing concerns from these members regarding the regular movement of wild boar between the forest and neighbouring farmland, where they can easily access grazing livestock.

The NSA has been actively involved in several FMD preparedness meetings with Defra, which is currently reviewing and updating its contingency planning and management strategy for a large-scale disease outbreak. However, during these discussions we have not become aware of any specific plans relating to the management of the wild boar population in areas of the UK, including the Forest of Dean, should an outbreak occur.

Given the potential role that wild boar could play in the spread and control of disease, this is an issue of significant concern to our ourselves and our members. We would therefore be grateful if you could provide details of Forestry England's current management strategy for wild boar in the event of an FMD outbreak, including how this would integrate with Defra's wider disease control measures.

If no such strategy is currently in place, we would appreciate confirmation of this. Such information would enable the NSA to raise the matter appropriately with Defra as part of our ongoing engagement on national disease preparedness and contingency planning.

We look forward to your response and thank you for your assistance.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A. Calvesbert'.

Andrea Calvesbert
Assistant to the Chief Executive
National Sheep Association



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