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**DIRECTORATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND  
RURAL ECONOMY (ARE)**

**Animal Health and Welfare Division:  
(Disease Prevention Team)**

**Agricultural Policy Delivery (RPID)  
Customer Service Delivery**

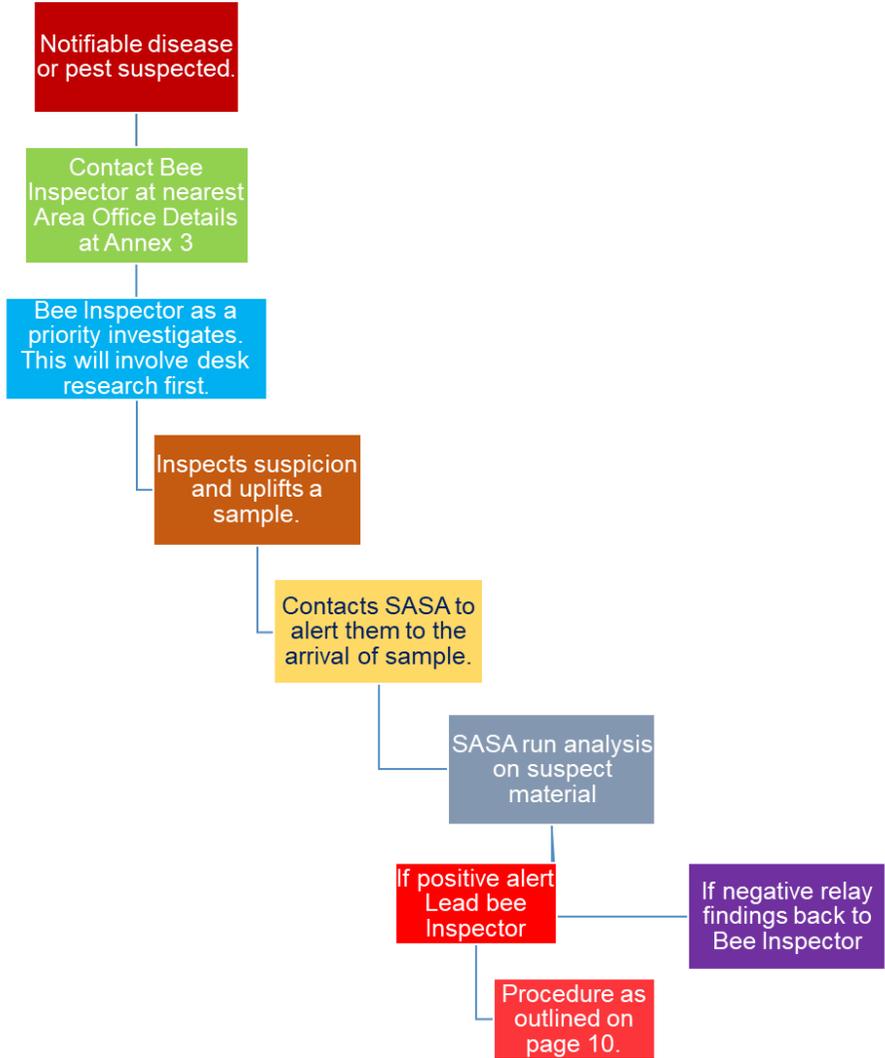
**GUIDANCE NOTES**

**FOR OPERATION OF**

**THE BEE DISEASES AND PESTS CONTROL  
(SCOTLAND) ORDER 2007 (as amended)**

<b>CONTENTS</b>	
1.	Who does what and when.
2.	Guidance Notes on The Bee Diseases and Pests Control (Scotland) Order 2007 and link to the Order.
3.	General Background
4.	Division of Responsibilities and Requirements
5.	Annex 1: Template To Record Bee Related Enquiries
6.	Annex 2: Location map, Area Offices of Agricultural Policy Delivery (RPID)
7.	Annex 3: Contacts for Bee Inspectors.
8.	Annex 4: American & European Foulbrood (AFB & EFB)
9.	Annex 5: Action if SASA Diagnosis of Foul Brood is Required
10.	Annex 6: Licensing for Foulbrood
11.	Annex 7: Varroosis
12.	Link to BeeBase: <a href="http://www.nationalbeeunit.com/index.cfm?">http://www.nationalbeeunit.com/index.cfm?</a>

1. Who does what and when:



## **2. Guidance Notes on The Bee Diseases and Pests Control (Scotland) Order 2007**

Link to The Bee Diseases and Pests Control (Scotland) Order 2007:  
[http://www.oqps.gov.uk/legislation/ssi/ssi2007/pdf/ssi\\_20070506\\_en.pdf](http://www.oqps.gov.uk/legislation/ssi/ssi2007/pdf/ssi_20070506_en.pdf)

### **a. General Background**

The Bee Diseases and Pests Control (Scotland) Order 2007 (the Order) came into force on 1 December 2007. It revokes and replaces the Bee Diseases Control Order 1982 (S.I. 1982/107) and revokes the Importation of Bees Order 1997 (S.I. 1997/310) where these relate to Scotland. The underpinning legislation is The Bees Act 1980.

### **b. Division of Responsibilities and Requirements**

- i. Scottish Government Directorate for Agriculture and Rural Economy (ARE), Animal Health and Welfare , Disease Prevention, Saughton House (the Branch) is responsible for:-
  - policy on the control of bee diseases in Scotland;
  - in consultation with the Head of Area Offices & Head of Agricultural Profession, liaison with the officers appointed as authorised persons (Bee Inspectors) on the operation of the Order;
  - consultation with the Scottish Government Legal Directorate in cases of non-compliance with the Order;
  - issuing a card (BDCIO(S)) to each Bee Inspector giving them the authority to carry out inspections and other duties under the Order;
  - maintaining the records of action taken in respect of individual beekeepers, including any necessary action in cases where beekeepers refuse inspection, or otherwise fail to comply with the provisions of the Order;
  - declaring infected areas and for making arrangements for publicity.
  - Liaison with colleagues in devolved administrations in Wales and Northern Ireland;
  - Monitoring Beebase and issuing appropriate guidance for its use;
  - Liaison with APHA / National Bee Unit and Defra policy;
  - Monitoring and developing the Scottish Honey bee Health Strategy;
  - Team responsible: Dr. Nick Ambrose, Stephen Sunderland, Jackie Quigley.

- ii. The Head of Area Offices & Head of Agricultural Profession has responsibility for:
- liaison with the Branch and Science and Advice for Scottish Agriculture (SASA) to plan and co-ordinate activities relating to the Order;
  - acting as a focus for information during outbreaks of statutory bee diseases and pests;
  - allocation of appropriate resources to deal with matters arising from the Order;
  - Team responsible: Douglas Petrie, Gregor Caldwell, Jenny Kinnaird.
- iii. The Bee Inspectors, based at the Area Offices of Agricultural Policy Delivery (RPID), are responsible for the operation of the Order in their area with duties including:-
- inspection of apiaries for presence of statutory bee diseases;
  - taking and arranging for delivery of samples to SASA, with relevant information and advance notice where possible;
  - issuing and removal of “Standstill Notices”;
  - issuing of “Destruction Notices” and supervising destruction;
  - informing beekeepers of treatment options for European foulbrood (EFB), where appropriate
  - granting the option, after taking account of the recommendations of SASA, and supervising appropriate treatment;
  - carrying out follow-up inspections after destruction or treatment;
  - issuing licences after consultation, allowing removal of specified items, eg hives, equipment, honey, etc from premises on which a Standstill Order has been placed because of American foulbrood (AFB) or European foulbrood (EFB)
  - reporting contraventions to Branch and generally ensuring that the Order and any Notices are complied with;
  - during an outbreak of a statutory disease or pest to maintain records on B2 form of all colonies inspected;
  - Maintain records and record bee inspections on Beebase,
  - Team of Bee Inspectors: Stephen Sunderland (Lead bee Inspector), Angus MacAskill, John Smith, Jim Anderson, Nicola Cooper-Storach, Gordon Mackay, Claire Gill.

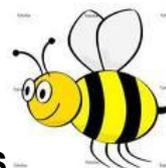
iv. Science and Advice for Scottish Agriculture (SASA) at Roddinglaw, Edinburgh is responsible for providing Branch and the Bee Inspectorate with the specialist technical support required to operate the Order and is authorised under the Order as "SASA".

Duties include:

- examination of submitted samples suspected of being infected with AFB, EFB, Varroosis, Small hive beetle (SHB) or *Tropilaelaps*.
- advising Branch, without delay, that a suspected case was under investigation;
- reporting results on which pathogen or pest is present;
- recommending, in consultation with the Lead Bee Inspector, the most suitable option, destruction or treatment, for each individual case of EFB;
- where approved antibiotic treatment is agreed, ordering in supplies;
- maintaining technical liaison with Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Bee Specialist at the National Bee Unit, (NBU), Sand Hutton, York;
- providing technical documentation as required;
- developing and delivering training courses and demonstration material as required;
- Team responsible: Jon Pickup, Fiona Highet MBE, Mairi Carnegie, Hanna Gizycka.

v. Requirements of Beekeepers under the Order: Beekeepers who suspect the presence of a statutory bee disease or pest – AFB , EFB, SHB or *Tropilaelaps*:

- must notify their local Bee Inspector at the local Area Offices of Agricultural Policy Delivery (RPID);
- are prohibited from removing any hive, bees, combs, quilts, honey etc, or appliances from the premises;
- notwithstanding the prohibition on movement, the beekeeper may submit samples of combs to SASA to see if they are free from infection;
- must not interfere with any form of identifying mark made by a Bee Inspector;
- must provide reasonable facilities and information to the Bee Inspector;
- must not treat their bees with a drug that disguise the presence of disease (e.g. oxytetracycline)



## TEMPLATE TO RECORD BEE RELATED ENQUIRIES

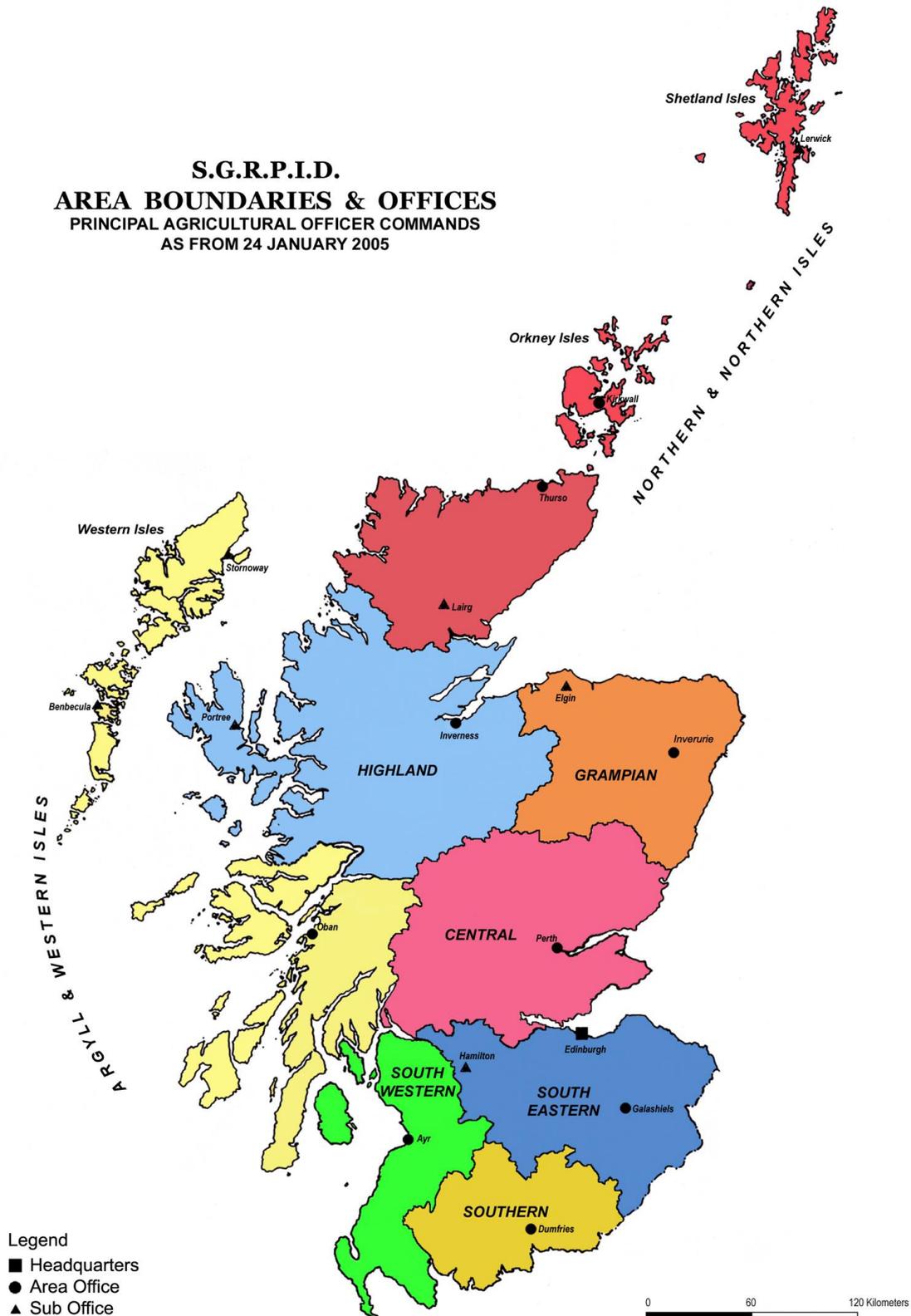
Beekeepers can be directed to Beebase for comprehensive bee related information:  
<http://www.nationalbeeunit.com/index.cfm?>

<b>Name</b>	
<b>Address</b>	
<b>Post Code</b>	
<b>Tel</b>	
<b>Email</b>	
<b>How many years beekeeping?</b>	
<b>How many hives are managed?</b>	
<b>How many apiaries</b>	
<b>Location of apiaries</b>	
<b>Member of Beekeeping Association?</b>	
<b>Which one?</b>	
<b>Signed up to Beebase?</b>	
<b>What varroa control is practised?</b>	
<b>What proportion of hives survived winter?</b>	
<b>Are all hives affected?</b>	
<b>Nature of problem</b>	
<b>Any other information</b>	
<b>Recorded by and contact details</b>	
<b>Date:</b>	

Once complete please pass this form to a Bee Inspector or scan and email to [beesmailbox@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:beesmailbox@scotland.gsi.gov.uk)  
 Thank you.

**Area Offices of Agricultural Policy Delivery (RPID)**

**S.G.R.P.I.D.  
AREA BOUNDARIES & OFFICES  
PRINCIPAL AGRICULTURAL OFFICER COMMANDS  
AS FROM 24 JANUARY 2005**



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SGRPID Drawing Office Pentland House, Edinburgh EH14 1TY

## Bee Inspectors

The following are authorised Bee Inspectors. All Bee Inspectors have email addresses as "firstname.surname@gov.scot"

<b>Bee Inspector</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Telephone</b>	<b>Area Office</b>
Stephen Sunderland (Lead bee Inspector)	P Spur, Saughton House, Broomhouse Drive, Edinburgh EH11 3XD	0300 2446672	Headquarters, Edinburgh
Angus MacAskill	Cotgreen Road, Tweedbank, Galashiels, Scottish Borders, TD1 3SG	01896 892400	Galashiels
John Smith	Russell House, King Street, Ayr, South Ayrshire, KA8 0BG	0300 2446300	Ayr
Jim Anderson	Cotgreen Road, Tweedbank, Galashiels, Scottish Borders, TD1 3SG	01896 892400	Galashiels
Nicola Cooper-Slorach	Thainstone Court, Inverurie, Grampian, Aberdeenshire, AB51 5YA	01467 626231	Inverurie
Gordon Mackay	Longman House, 28 Longman Road, Inverness, Highland, IV1 1SF	01463 234141	Inverness
Claire Gill	The Links, Golspie Business Park, Golspie, Sutherland, KW10 6UB	03000 673122	Golspie

## **American & European Foulbrood (AFB & EFB)**

Honey bees are affected by a number of diseases, but two of the most serious affect the developing brood. They are American Foulbrood (AFB) and European Foulbrood (EFB) and despite their names, both occur in the UK. Both diseases are notifiable under the Bee Diseases and Pests Control (Scotland) Order 2007, so if either of these diseases is suspected, the local Bee Inspector must be informed (Annex 5).

A Bee Inspector may, on request, give information about occurrences of Foulbrood disease to bona fide inquirers such as beekeepers' associations or known beekeepers. Care should be taken, however, to ensure that the inquirer would not be able to identify an individual beekeeper on whose premises the disease had occurred. It will generally be permissible to disclose the number of occurrences in a particular area.

Bee Inspectors should refrain from offering unsolicited advice to beekeepers on matters not connected with notifiable diseases.

A comprehensive note on AFB and EFB can be found at the BeeBase website by clicking on the following link.

<http://www.nationalbeeunit.com/index.cfm>

### **Action when European (EFB) or American Foulbrood (AFB) is present or suspected**

Note: Shook swarm technique for dealing with Foulbrood is a development which has achieved notable success. Further details are available via the Beebase website at:

<http://www.nationalbeeunit.com/index.cfm?sectionid=24>

### **Restriction on beekeeper who suspects Foulbrood**

As soon as a beekeeper suspects that EFB or AFB is present, they become subject to the Order, and the prohibition on removal of hive, bees, combs, quilts, honey etc., or appliances from the premises.

### **Initial action by Bee Inspectors**

**Powers of entry:** Bee Inspectors can use the powers granted under the Bees Act 1980 to enter premises at any time, but normally from April to September (inclusive), in the presence, or with the knowledge, of the beekeeper, to inspect bees, hives, combs, quilts, honey, etc. Inspection may be at the request of the beekeeper, or on suspicion.

**Serving Prohibition Notice if entry is refused:** Where a Bee Inspector is refused entry to any premises on which he suspects that any infected hive, bees, combs, quilts, bee-products or appliances may be present, the Order authorises the Bee Inspector to serve a Notice on the beekeeper, prohibiting the movement of such items without a licence.

**Extent of Inspection:**

If either Foulbrood disease is suspected, all colonies in an apiary should be inspected and combs examined. If the Bee Inspector and the beekeeper agree that AFB is present, contact colonies, as defined below, should be inspected also. Otherwise, contact colonies should be inspected only if positive diagnosis of AFB or EFB is confirmed by examination at SASA.

**Definition of Contact Colonies:** Contact colonies are defined as "All colonies belonging to the owner of an apiary wherever they are sited, ie including colonies transferred from the apiary to another site, during the current season, and all colonies in the vicinity, normally defined as within 5km (3 miles), belonging to another owner".

**Action if AFB Diagnosis Agreed at Inspection**

**Serving of Notice for destruction:** If, at the initial inspection, the Bee Inspector and beekeeper both agree that AFB is present, the Bee Inspector should serve a notice, Form BDC02(a), on the beekeeper requiring him to destroy, by fire, the bees, combs (including any containing honey) and quilts etc no more than 10 days after the issuing of the notice.

If the beekeeper signifies his agreement to destruction by signing a copy of the notice, action can be taken without sending samples to SASA and receiving a confirmatory positive diagnosis. A copy of the Notice, signed by the beekeeper should be retained by the Bee Inspector.

**Extension of Destruction Notice to equipment etc:** If the beekeeper agrees, the notice may require him to destroy by fire or treat by scorching (apart from polystyrene or non-timber hives) or irradiation, hives and any appliances which appear to the Bee Inspector to be infected or to have been exposed to infection with AFB. Such action must be specified in the Notice. Also note that care should be taken to ensure that plastic, rubber or other materials likely to produce noxious smoke are not included in the burning requirement.

**Personnel Involved in Destruction:** Destruction should be carried out by the beekeeper or someone authorised by him under the supervision of a Bee Inspector (not necessarily in the presence of the Inspector).

**Recording:** After the appropriate action has been taken, the Bee Inspector should complete the destruction report, form BDC9(S).

**Inspection of Contact Colonies:** Immediately following diagnosis of AFB, all colonies which may have come into contact with bees from infected hives should be inspected. This will include colonies on adjacent premises (within a 5km/3 mile radius), or on other premises operated by the same beekeeper. If further AFB is found at inspection, or confirmed in a suspect sample sent for laboratory examination, the full procedures as set out above for destruction etc, should be repeated.

**Follow up Inspections:** Follow up inspections of contact colonies will be required not less than 6 weeks after destruction. If it is too late in the season to open hives safely, the 6 week inspection will need to be held over until the following spring.

**Lifting of Standstill:** The standstill notice BDPC01 should remain in force until follow-up inspections confirm freedom. When a further inspection of contact colonies in the apiary reveals no trace of disease, the standstill can be lifted by serving form BDPC05 on the beekeeper.

## Action if SASA Diagnosis of Foulbrood is Required

**Serving of Holding Notice:** Following inspection, if the Bee Inspector suspects the presence of either Foulbrood disease, he should serve a signed Notice, Form BDPC01, on the beekeeper, prohibiting the removal of any hives, bees, combs, quilts, honey, etc, or appliances from the premises. This Notice takes over from the interim standstill which became operative with the beekeeper's suspicion.

**Sampling of combs for either Foulbrood disease:** If a Bee Inspector suspects, but cannot identify the disease as AFB, or if the beekeeper does not agree that there is an infection of AFB, or if the officer suspects or is certain that EFB is present, the Bee inspector is empowered under the Order to take samples.

**Method of sampling for submission to SASA:** A sample larva showing typical symptoms should be selected from each hive under suspicion. Mark up supplied Eppendorf tube with hive reference number, date and apiary then using supplied matchsticks or sterilized tweezers place larva into the tube with the matchstick. Break the matchstick to fit and seal up the tube. Place in addressed jiffy bag along with completed B2.

Any hive from which a sample is taken should be marked with a permanent mark to allow future identification so that each sample taken can be related to an individual hive. Frequently the inspection is carried out in the absence of the beekeeper particularly in commercial operations so it is imperative that a clear identifying mark is made and relayed to the beekeeper. Such marks as by permanent marker or coloured pins fixing on weatherproof tape have been used successfully. In addition place some vegetation under a stone on the roof to aid rapid identification in the apiary.

Any samples removed from the hive should be packed immediately, in the presence of the owner or his representative; they must not be left exposed to the attention of foraging bees, which can easily pick up and carry infection to a clean hive.

Bees may emerge from brood enclosed in frame samples in the post. To safeguard against bee escape, comb should be double wrapped, using two of the 8" x 16" paper bags provided. Polythene bags should not be used, as 'sweating' makes samples difficult to examine.

Combs within the standard bags should be packed in the boxes supplied, one frame per box. The box should be so packed that, even with rough handling, adjoining parcels cannot be soiled by escaping honey.

Completed B2's must accompany any samples being sent for analysis to SASA.

Samples should be delivered to SASA as quickly as possible, either by hand or by post. Normally, post should be first class but, if there is any doubt on

delivery, the special delivery post should be used. Packages should be clearly marked "URGENT -BIOLOGICAL SPECIMENS" and addressed to Zoology Laboratory (Bee Diseases), SASA, Roddinglaw Road, Edinburgh, EH12 9FJ.

SASA should be advised immediately that a sample is being submitted.

### **Action following receipt of diagnosis from SASA.**

**Notification of Sample Diagnosis:** Immediately the diagnosis is completed at SASA, results will be e-mailed to beesmailbox cc in the appropriate Bee Inspector and the Lead Bee Inspector, normally on the day the sample is received.

### **Sample Free from Infection**

**Lifting of Standstill Notice:** On confirmation that there was no infection in the sample/s taken, the Bee Inspector should serve the notice, Form BDPC05, lifting the standstill imposed earlier.

### **AFB Diagnosed**

**Serving of Destruction Notice and Further Action:** Notification diagnosing the presence of AFB will be on B2 diagnosis section. On receipt of this the Bee Inspector should serve a destruction notice, Form BDPC02(a), on the beekeeper. They should proceed thereafter as at page 13 above (Action if AFB Diagnosis Agreed at Inspection).

**EFB Diagnosed:** If EFB presence is confirmed by SASA, many factors are involved and further consultation is required before decisions on action can be taken. The Bee Inspector must consult and pay due regard to the views of the guidance provided by SASA and the Lead Bee Inspector, as well as the wishes of the beekeeper.

**Factors Relevant to "Infected Colonies":** In deciding on the action to be taken, SASA and the Bee Inspectors should consider the following factors, and any others which appear to be relevant:

- Strength of the "infection" in the colony: an infection *used to be classed as heavy if more than 50% of uncapped larvae in the brood combs were infected; as light, if less than 50% of uncapped larvae in brood combs are infected.* However in the light of our experience in recent years dealing with EFB, clearly an infection over more than 50% of combs is heavily infected and the only option to consider is to cull. Any hope of recovery from a situation as heavily infected as this, whilst possible, will be long term and with no guarantee of eventual success.
- Consideration has to be given to neighbouring beekeepers and the strenuous efforts which have been taken to reduce infections to the current low levels. We now consider 2 or 3 cells in more than one frame to be

questionable as to full long term recovery potential. Note also that our thinking in this area is rapidly changing in the light of scientific evidence and techniques allowing us to suggest the latest best practice. The above relates to clinical symptoms as this is in the legislation which we are obliged to observe.

- Strength of the colony: a colony is considered weak if less than 5 brood combs are present; as stronger, if there are 5 or more brood combs. This is of course dependent on the time of year but above indication is useful for summer consideration.
- Time of the year and particularly environmental factors such as weather and forage availability will dictate success of chosen treatment option.
- Siting of apiary: Colonies on a temporary site, eg heather or oil seed rape, would be stranded on these sites by a Standstill Order. An alternative would be to move them under a Movement Licence to a previously approved quarantine / hospital site. Here the approved treatment can be carried out. Removal from the quarantine site can only be done after a Bee Inspector has inspected and declared the colony free of clinical symptoms and only after the appropriate standstill period following treatment.

**Availability of Antibiotic.** The Medicines Act 1968: The sale and supply of veterinary medicinal products is controlled by the Medicines Act 1968. Broadly speaking, under this Act, all veterinary medicines are put into one of 3 categories for the purpose of sale and supply. These categories are:

- POM -Prescription Only Medicines -which may be sold or supplied only under the authority of a veterinary surgeon.
- PML -Pharmacy and Merchants' List -these products can be sold only from a pharmacy or an agricultural merchant who is registered with the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain.
- GSL -General Sales List -consisting of those products which may be sold without any restriction.

Prescription only Medicines (POMs): These medicinal products can only be supplied and administered by a veterinary surgeon or person acting under their direct responsibility to animals under their care. These limitations on the use of POMs are designed to avoid under or over-dosing which could lead to resistance or toxicity problems and to ensure that residues or POMs do not remain in the animal or its product. To this end, it is a legal requirement to keep records of all medicines used particularly noting the withdrawal period during which time neither the animal nor any of its products may be used for human consumption.

Use of Antibiotic: Oxytetracycline is the only antibiotic that may be used for treatment of EFB. This is a POM which is not licensed for use in bees and,

therefore, as such, can only be supplied or administered by a veterinary surgeon. However, under the Bee Diseases Control Order 1982, appointed officers are authorised to treat bee colonies with the drug. Beekeepers are not permitted to obtain or administer the antibiotic.

Oxytetracycline is a bacteriostat; it does not kill the bacteria but stops them multiplying while the bees clean out the infected debris. The use of antibiotics for preventative purpose, as distinct from treatment, will not be authorised by Branch; it is considered that the wider use could hasten the evolution of strains of EFB bacteria resistant to antibiotic treatment.

Note: Whilst we retain the option to prescribe antibiotic for the treatment of EFB infection, each requested case will be considered but the default position is not to prescribe. This policy is expected to remain in place until a maximum residue level (**MRL**) for antibiotic in honey is agreed.

**Procedure Where Destruction Agreed –EFB, heavy infection.** Serving Destruction Notice: If the infection is serious, the Bee Inspector should serve a destruction notice BDPC02(a) on the beekeeper requiring the destruction by fire of bees, combs (including any containing honey), and quilts from the hive.

Destruction of Colonies: After a Destruction Notice has been issued to a beekeeper, destruction should be carried out by him, or his duly authorised agent, under the supervision of the Bee Inspector as soon as possible; this should normally be no more than 10 days after the notice has been issued.

Destruction of equipment: As with AFB, hives and appliances will either be destroyed, scorched or irradiated.

After destruction of the colony, the Bee Inspector should complete form BDC9(S) and note the beekeeper's record card.

Follow up Inspection after Destruction: The Bee Inspector should arrange a post-destruction inspection of contact hives not less than six weeks after destruction. If it is too late in the season to open hives safely, the follow up inspections should be postponed until spring.

Spring Follow-up Inspections. In apiaries where action has been taken to control Foulbroods - destruction or treatment, all contact colonies should be inspected again at the beginning of the next season. BeeBase will select these on the Bee Inspectors list for inspections. If infection still exists, the above procedures are repeated.

Default by Beekeeper: In the event of the beekeeper defaulting on specified actions, the Order authorises Bee Inspectors to take the required actions.

## Licensing for Foulbrood

To Allow Movement or Removal during Standstill. An owner or person in charge of colonies may apply in writing to the Bee Inspector for a licence permitting the movement or removal of specified items from premises on which a standstill order has been placed because of EFB.

Movement of Contact Colonies. Prior to the destruction or treatment of EFB infected colonies, contact colonies may be moved to an approved site, under a licence issued by the Bee Inspector. A new Standstill Notice will be issued for the new site.

Removal of honey before destruction or treatment: Licences, to permit the removal of honey from apiaries where infected colonies will be destroyed or treated, can be issued only with the agreement of the Branch and subject to the condition that the honey can be used only for human consumption, and must not be fed to bees.

Removal of honey after treatment: Licences will not be issued for the removal of honey from treated colonies, or from their contact colonies until the eight week standstill period has elapsed and the certificate of post treatment inspection ie Form BDPC08, stating that no honey has been harvested from the treated hives, has been issued.

Removal of colonies and equipment: If exceptional circumstances such as the death of the owner, make the removal of colonies of bees and equipment imperative, a special inspection should be made. The details necessary to complete the licence must be ascertained; any licence granted should stipulate conditions along the following lines:-

- that the hives etc., shall be removed from the premises subject to the Standstill Order, only for the purpose of transfer to the new premises specified on the Schedule to the Licence;
- that after removal to the specified premises, the hives etc., shall remain there and not be further removed until a new licence to do so be granted or until the original Standstill Order expired (or would have expired);
- that the removal of the hives etc., shall take place only in accordance with the terms of the schedule.

Notification of removal to another area: If the site to which the hives are being moved is in another area, the Bee Inspector in that Area should be notified and informed whether any of the hives have recently been or are due to be given antibiotic treatment. If the intended site is in England or Wales, this information should be sent to NBU, [nbuoffice@apha.gov.uk](mailto:nbuoffice@apha.gov.uk).

Note also that since the uncovering of the severe EFB infections in 2009 we have worked closely with the producers involved and developed a voluntary scheme with them. All procedures are within the existing legislation.

**Exemptions from Provisions of Order:** The appropriate Minister may by licence, exempt educational or research establishments from the provisions of the Order.

## **Varroosis**

Varroa was found in the south of England in April 1992 and spread steadily throughout the country until it finally crossed the Scottish Border and was found at Canonbie in 1997. Isolated instances of varroa had been identified in Scotland prior to this as isolated illegal movements of bees. Varroa has spread steadily to most parts of Scotland although there are still discrete areas clear of the disease.

Varroosis ceased to be a notifiable disease under The Bee Diseases and Pests Control (Scotland) Order 2007 which revoked the Bee Diseases Control Order 1982.

## **Varroa Monitoring By Beekeepers**

Beekeepers should be encouraged to check their colonies regularly for infestation, by sending "insert" samples directly to SASA at Roddinglaw. The experience of other countries has been that, the sooner the initial infestations are found, the greater the chance of operating a successful control.

Winter Debris: Scrape hive floor from each colony in the apiary during the spring inspection. Send samples to SASA for examination.