

From: Becky Race  
Sent: 26 June 2015 15:25  
To: Brian Hosie  
Subject: Closure of Inverness Vetlab

Dear Mr Hosie,

I felt I needed to add my voice to the opposition to the closure of the Inverness Disease Surveillance Centre. As a vet working in small animal practice in Inverness my clients have received an excellent service from the post mortem facility here. This would no longer be available to my clients unless they are able/willing to drive to Perth or Aberdeen at a time when they have just lost a much loved pet.

On a larger scale I feel the closure of the Inverness facility could have a serious impact on disease surveillance in the Highlands including detection of newly imported disease which could be hugely costly to the whole UK economy, I'm sure we're all familiar with recent examples of this.

Also I feel there could be a big financial impact on farmers & crofters as they lose the ability to quickly diagnose diseases which could impact the rest of their herd/flock. Having done post mortem examinations at Douglasbrae while working as a mixed practitioner I'm aware of the futility of attempting to gain any information from a carcass which has been transported for hundreds of miles in hot weather. I have heard there may be a collection service for livestock requiring post mortem examination, so hopefully farmers wouldn't be left to make round trips of up to 8hrs to get to Perth or Aberdeen from the remoter regions of the west coast of Scotland, however I would be concerned about the delay there would still be in getting to a centre and whether any post mortem examination then carried out would give any accurate results.

My other concern is the loss of wildlife disease surveillance which is currently undertaken by the Inverness centre. Surely the closure would affect detection of disease in the Highlands which is such an important area for wildlife conservation.

I'm sure this level of centralisation wouldn't be inflicted on farmers south of the border and don't see why in the Highlands we should have an inferior service especially at this time when the importance of prompt disease detection has been realised as having the potential to save the economy and the farming community many millions of pounds.

I hope I can play a small part in keeping this important facility open for the benefit of all.

Kind regards,

Becky Race, BVM&S, MRCVS