



## Cross-Government Pandemic Flu Readiness Board (PFRB)

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### Terms of reference

April 2017

#### Background

1. The NSC (THRC) discussion in February 2017, and its conclusions, reaffirmed the Government's commitment to ensuring the UK was prepared to manage the health effects of severe pandemic influenza, as defined by the reasonable worst case scenario in the National Risk Assessment, and the wider consequences it would have. Since the demise of the Pandemic Flu Implementation Group, there has been no dedicated group with responsibility for preparations for the cross-government impacts of pandemic influenza. The Cross-Government Pandemic Flu Readiness Board (PFRB) will provide oversight for a programme which will deliver the plans and capabilities to manage the wider consequences of pandemic influenza.

#### Scope and Responsibilities

2. The PFRB will have the following responsibilities:
  - oversee the delivery of the PFRB work programme and the delivery of associated outcomes and products;
  - provide an interdepartmental forum to challenge and question progress against milestones;
  - coordinate the work programme of constituent departments and, as appropriate, the Devolved Administrations (DAs), provide a forum for clarifying boundaries of departmental responsibility and manage any interdependencies between departments;
  - agree arrangements for maintaining and assuring the capability to manage the non-clinical aspects of pandemic influenza; and
  - where policy areas are devolved, provide a forum for exchanging best practice among the four UK administrations with a view to developing common approaches where appropriate within the UK overall constitutional arrangements.
3. The work programme is set by NSC (THRC).

#### Membership

4. The following departments and organisations will be represented on the Board:

##### Core members

- |                                   |               |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| • Department of Health (Co-Chair) | • Home Office |
| • CCS, Cabinet Office (Co-Chair)  | • HM Treasury |
| • Public Health England           | • MoJ         |
| • DCLG                            | • DfT         |
| • MoD                             | • BEIS        |
| • GO-Science                      | • DEFRA       |



- HMRC
- DfE
- DWP
- DCMS
- FCO
- DFID

Other departments and organisations which may be called upon to attend include:

- NHS England
- Government Legal Service
- Office of the Parliamentary Counsel

Devolved Administrations

- Northern Ireland Executive
- Scottish Government
- Welsh Government

The respective health and/or resilience departments of the DAs are invited to attend, as the Board understands the importance of a unified response, whilst recognising that decision-making and reporting on devolved matters is a matter for each of the respective DAs.

Departments will engage more widely with stakeholders beyond Government as necessary, including their respective sectors.

### **Roles and Responsibilities of Members**

5. The membership of the Board is intended to reflect the breadth of the Government's responsibility for the potential consequences of an influenza pandemic on the nation. Members of the Board will represent the interests of their department, and the sector(s) for which their department is accountable to Parliament. Members should therefore be prepared to represent the interests of their entire department and act as a focal point for communications with their department.

### **Governance and Accountability**

6. The Board will report progress to NSC (THRC) via the Secretary of State for Health and Minister for the Cabinet Office, who will receive regular progress updates in parallel. The governance for the Board does not replace individual departments' governance arrangements for their own pandemic influenza preparedness programmes. The primary focus of this Board will be on ensuring the successful delivery of the work programme, its constituent parts and their respective deliverables by early 2018.

**Cabinet Office**  
**Department of Health**  
**3 April 2017**