

Vacancy Description

Department of Environment Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) is seeking to appoint two Non-Executive Directors for the Animal Health & Welfare Board for England. Time commitment is expected to be approximately 30 days per annum at a daily rate of £300 plus reasonable expenses.

Role and Responsibilities of the Non-Executive Director (NED) Members of the Animal Health & Welfare Board for England (AHWBE).

Non-Executive Directors on the AHWBE will:

- Provide strategic direction and advice from the AHWBE to Defra Ministers on the health & welfare of kept animals (including companion and aquatic animals).
- Provide support to the Chair and other Non-Executive Board members and ensure Defra priorities are properly understood by industry stakeholders.
- Assist and provide constructive challenge to Defra officials in the development of animal health & welfare policy.
- Be able to take a strategic view in their decision-making, whilst acting with impartiality in providing evidence-based advice and guidance.
- Support the development and ongoing delivery of the Animal Health & Welfare Pathway by working closely with policy and delivery officials.
- Champion the potential for co-design in developing existing and new policy and communication e.g. through specific task and finish groups.
- Have strong existing industry networks and to be able to expand these as needed.
- Maintain and build links with industry, sector council groups and Defra Policy Teams.

Person Specification

Qualities required for a non-Executive Director

Essential Criteria

- Extensive working knowledge of animal health and welfare in the farming industry and/or companion animal sector, ideally of more than five years.
- Ability to maintain a positive attitude and pro-active contribution to discussions and ongoing work to ensure the Board provides Defra with collectively agreed, soundly based, actionable advice in a timely manner.
- Ability to lead specific work areas within the Board work plan
- Ability to understand and value a different perspective and to build productive working relationships both within the Board, Defra and external experts and representatives.
- Ability to examine issues in an impartial way and to be able to work collaboratively on a wide range of animal health & welfare related issues, drawing on, but not limited to their expertise.
- Ability and willingness to work flexibly with Defra Policy Officials and where necessary Defra Ministers.

Desirable Criteria

- Appreciation of the impact of animals on the environment.
- Experience of working with others to build consensus on policy preferably in relation to farming and companion animal sectors.
- Specific knowledge and experience of the sheep and/or intensive pig and poultry industry.

Additional Information

Please refer to the candidate information pack for further details

We expect to have candidates shortlist by 4 May 2025 and panel interviews W/C 19 May 2025.

It is essential that your supporting statement gives full but concise information relevant to the appointment, clearly demonstrating how you meet each of the essential criteria.

At the shortlist meeting the panel will assess each application against the essential and desirable criteria and will then decide who to invite for final interview.

Interviews are expected to take place online via MS Teams and will last for approx. 45 minutes. Further details about the format will be provided to you in advance.

The appointment will commence in July 2025.

How to Apply

Thanks for your interest in the appointment of the AHWBE Non-Executive Director Members

In order to apply you will need to visit <https://apply-for-public-appointment.service.gov.uk/roles> and either [create an account](#) or [sign in](#)

Once you are logged into your account, click on 'apply for this role' and follow the on-screen instructions. To apply, all candidates are required to provide:

- a Curriculum Vitae (CV)
- a supporting statement or no more than 1,000 words, setting out how you meet the essential criteria – make sure you refer to the contents of this document and provide specific examples
- equality information
- information relating to any outside interests or reputational issues

We will ask you to check and confirm your personal details to ensure your application is accurate.

You will also have the opportunity to make a reasonable adjustment request or apply under the disability confident scheme before you submit your application.

The Advisory Assessment Panel reserves the right to only consider applications that contain all of the elements listed above, and that arrive before the published deadline for applications.

For an informal discussion about the role please contact Martin Jenkins on 0208 026 3644 or martin.jenkins@defra.gv.uk

If you have any questions about the appointments process, please email the Public Appointments Team at publicappts@defra.gov.uk

Applications must be received by 12 noon, Monday 28 April 2025