Chalara fraxinea and the implementation of the GB Biosecurity Strategy

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Background

- *Chalara fraxinea* first scientifically described in 2006
- First found in Britain in February 2012
- Import ban October 2012
- Destruction of 100,000+ saplings
- COBRA met November 2012
- Tree Health and Plant Biosecurity Expert Task Force established November 2012

COBRA

Consequences of *Chalara*

- Ash has been lost as a timber tree

- Costs for private owners are vast (National Trust £15 million)

- Consequences for carbon sequestration in the UK

- Biodiversity: ash has many associated species that are the sole food-plant for many species of invertebrate

- Ecosystems and biodiversity levels have been negatively impacted

Task Force: aims (abbreviated)

○ Review domestic and international risks presented from new and emerging tree and related plant pests and pathogens

○ Provide an independent perspective on costs and benefits to inform priority setting and resource allocation.

○ Identify potential obstacles to tree health and plant biosecurity, and suggest ways of resolving them.

○ Make use of international best practice in tree health and plant biosecurity management.

○ Make recommendations for next steps including identifying crucial knowledge gaps.

Task Force Chair: Professor Chris Gilligan (Cambridge)

Task Force's recommendations (endorsed by House of Commons March 2014)

A. National Context

○ Develop a prioritised UK Plant Health Risk Register.

○ Appoint a Chief Plant Health Officer to own the UK Plant Health Risk Register and to provide strategic and tactical leadership for managing those risks.

○ Develop and implement procedures for preparedness and contingency planning to predict, monitor, and control the spread of pests and pathogens.

○ Review, simplify, and strengthen governance and legislation.

Task Force's recommendations (continued)

B. International Context

- Improve the use of epidemiological intelligence from EU/other regions and work to improve the EU regulations concerned with tree health and plant biosecurity.

- Strengthen biosecurity to reduce risks at the border and within the UK.
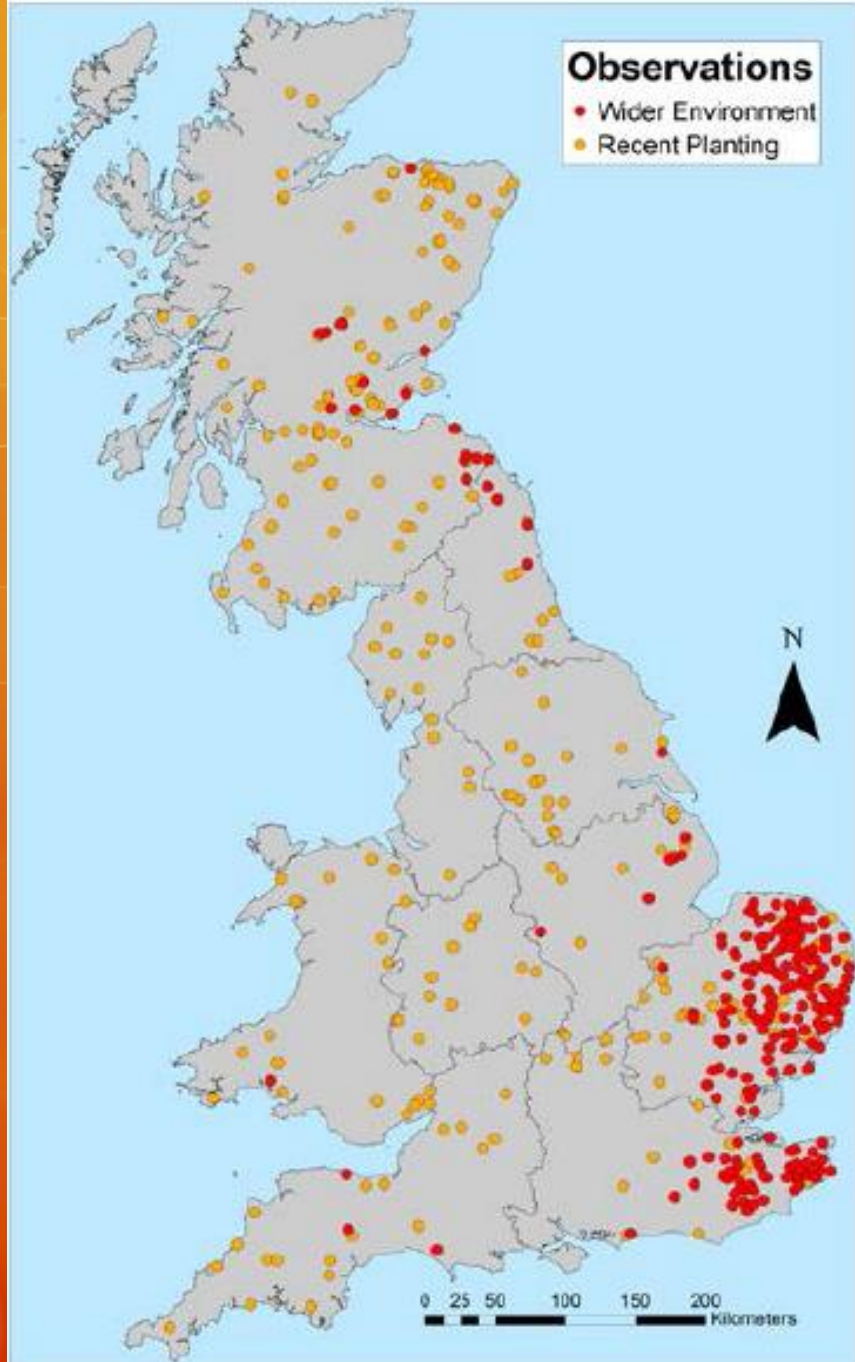
C. Capabilities and Communication

- Develop a modern, user-friendly system to provide quick and intelligent access to information about tree health and plant biosecurity.

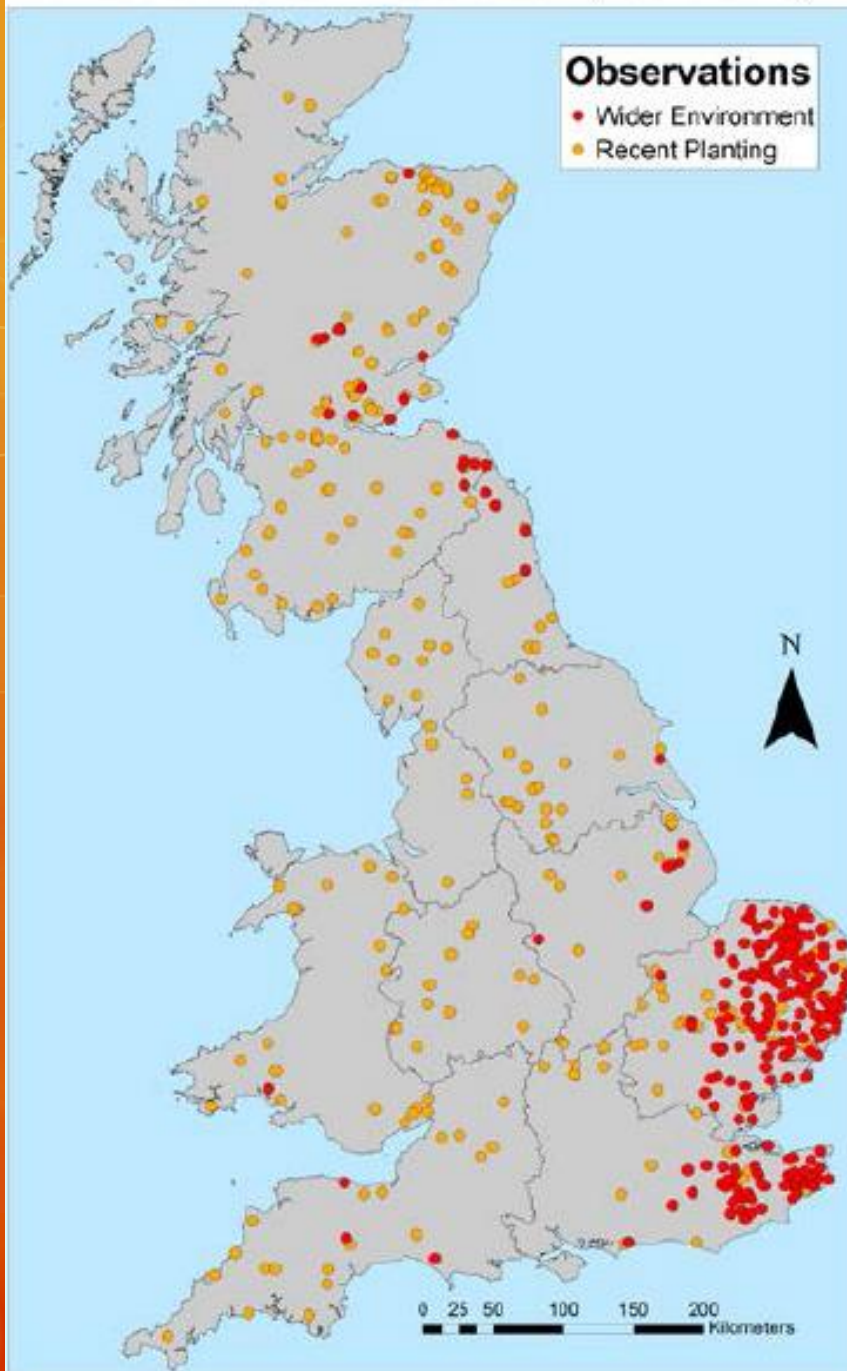- Address key skills shortages.

Tree Health Management Plan
(April 2014)

1. Support action to reduce the spread Chalara given that there is no known means of eradication

2. Fund through the England Wood Grant Scheme (EWGS) removal of infected ash

3. Encouraging stakeholder engagement in surveillance, monitoring and Action to tackle Chalara

4. Understand the impact of Chalara on non-woodland trees

5. Continue ongoing research to identify disease management approaches

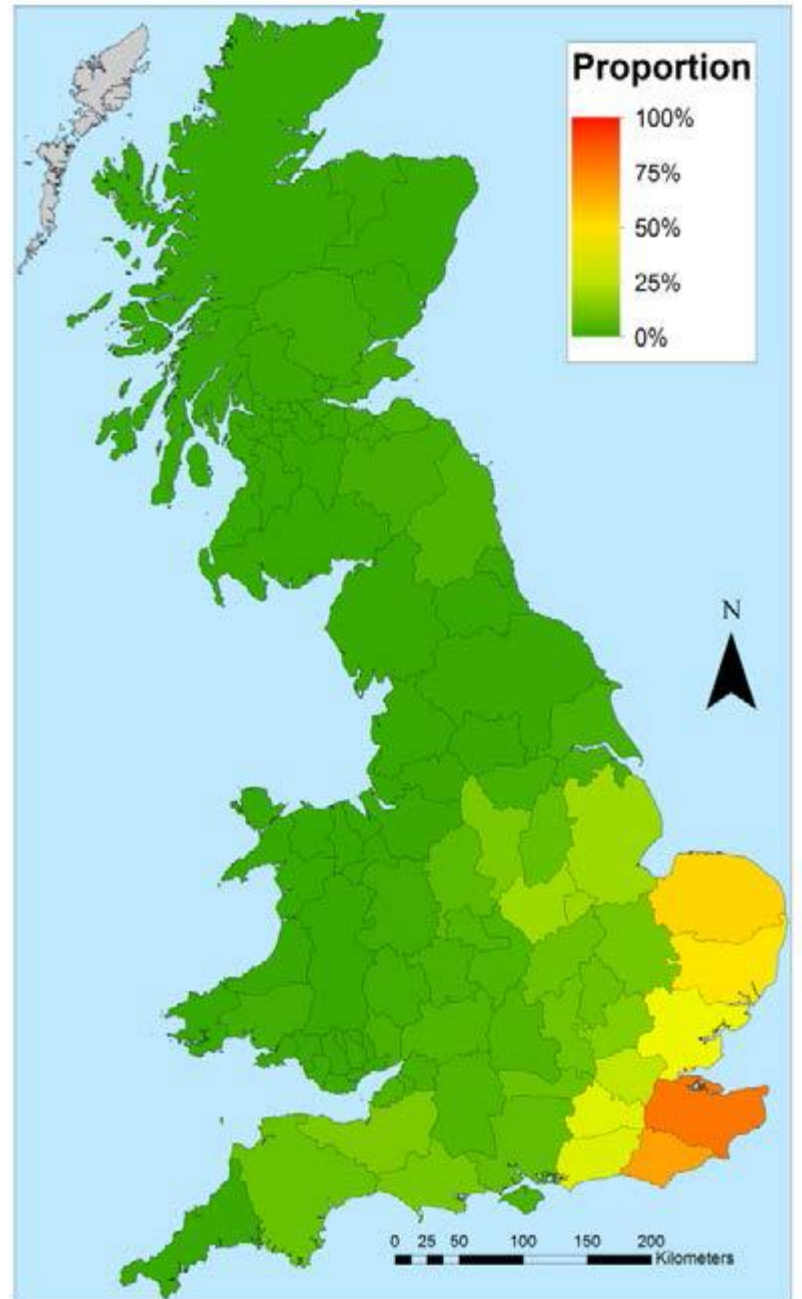6. Building environmental and economic resilience

Ash Dieback Observations (Mar 2014)

Observations
- Wider Environment
- Recent Planting

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Observations
- Wider Environment
- Recent Planting

0 25 50   100   150   200
Kilometers

Average Infected Ash Proportion - GBR 2018

Proportion
- 100%
- 75%
- 50%
- 25%
- 0%

0 25 50   100   150   200
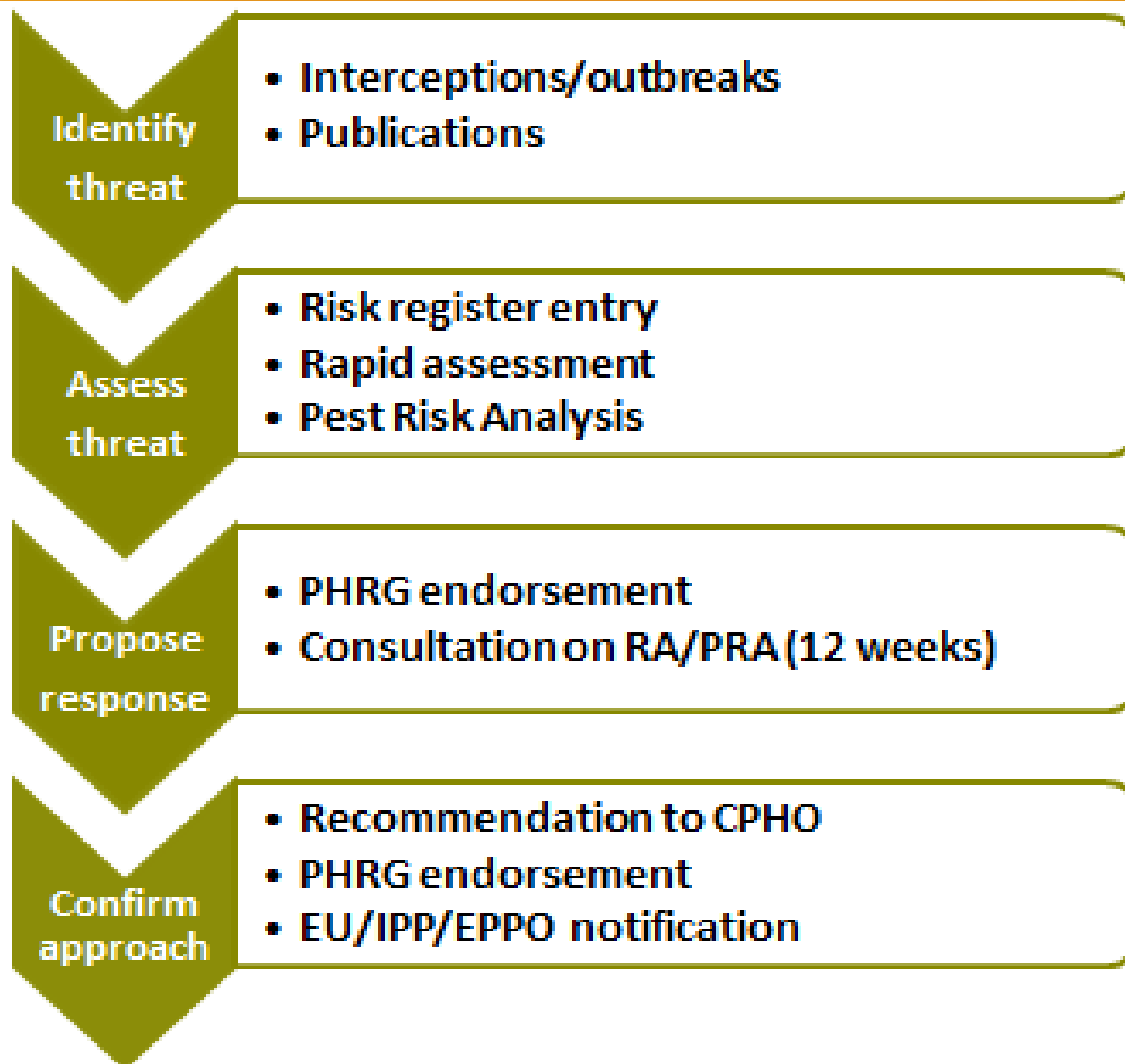Kilometers

Plant Biosecurity Strategy
(April 2014)

- UK Risk Register

- Biosecurity at the borders

- Skills and careers

- Engaging and inspiring citizens
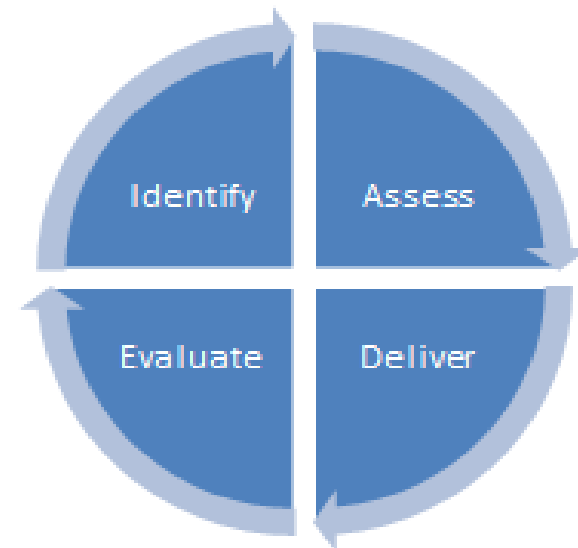
Plant Health Risk Group (PHRG)

- Facilitated by Defra with Apha, Fera, DA and FC representation

- Meets monthly

- Uses PH Risk Register to identify priority actions (national, plus input to EU process)

- Makes recommendations to CPHO and ultimately Ministers

- 5-10 new RR entries per month

- 1-5 PRAs per month

PHRG process

Identify threat
- Interceptions/outbreaks
- Publications

Assess threat
- Risk register entry
- Rapid assessment
- Pest Risk Analysis

Propose response
- PHRG endorsement
- Consultation on RA/PRA (12 weeks)

Confirm approach
- Recommendation to CPHO
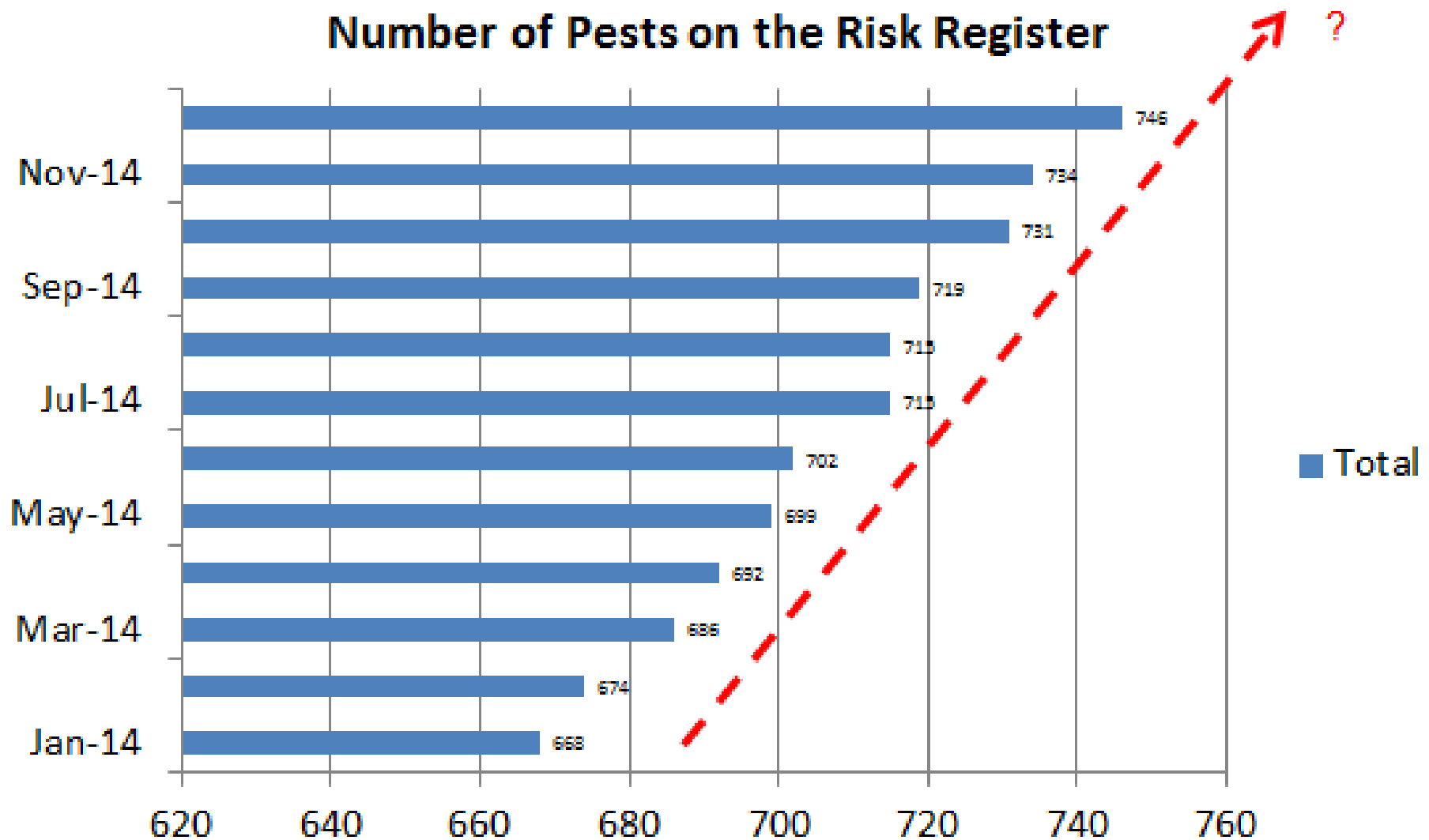- PHRG endorsement
- EU/IPP/EPPO notification

How does the Risk Register help?

- RR helps the PHRG with initial evaluation and response
- Priority actions co-ordinated - contingency planning, awareness raising, research
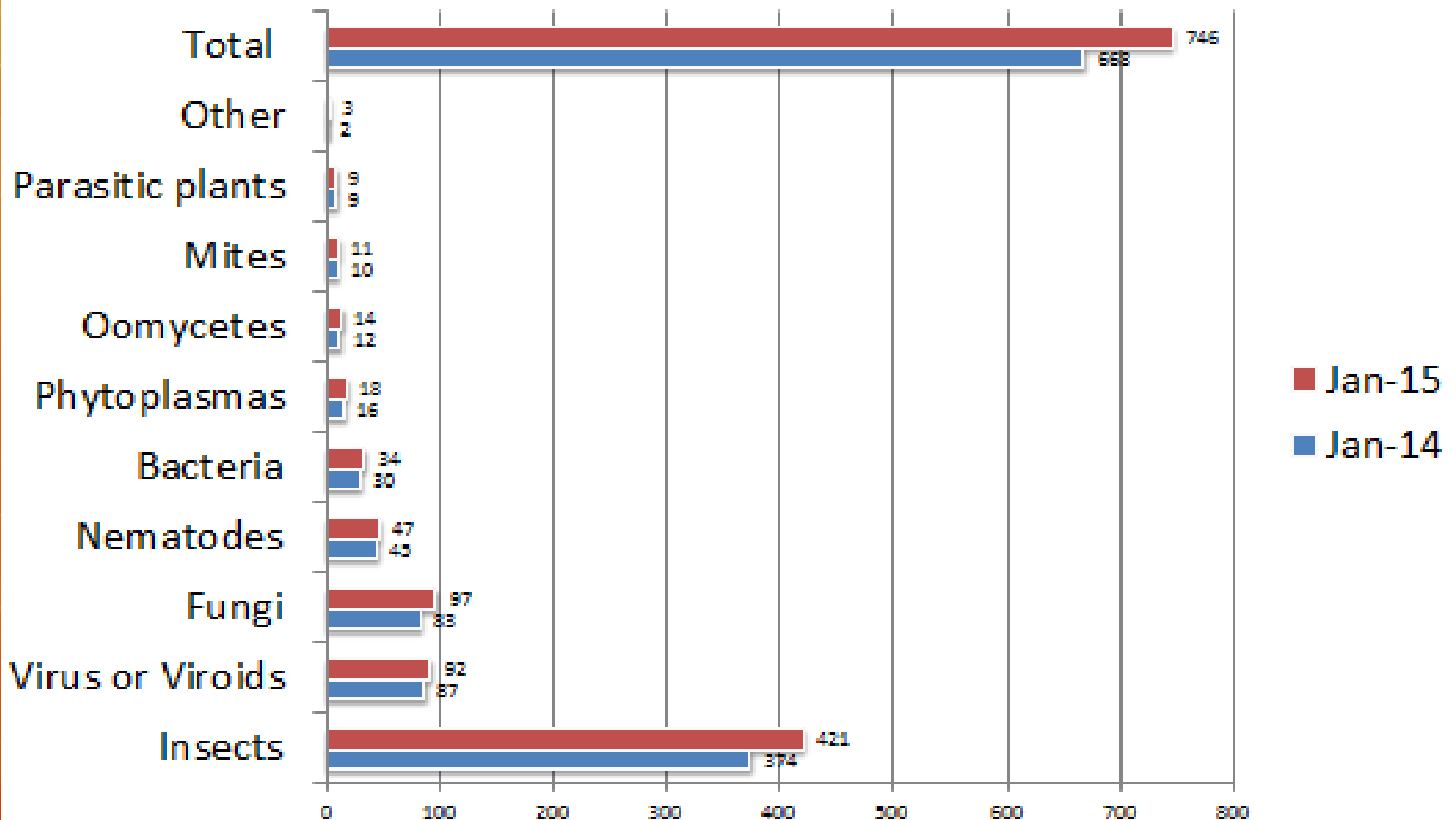- High profile pests reviewed monthly

Current situation

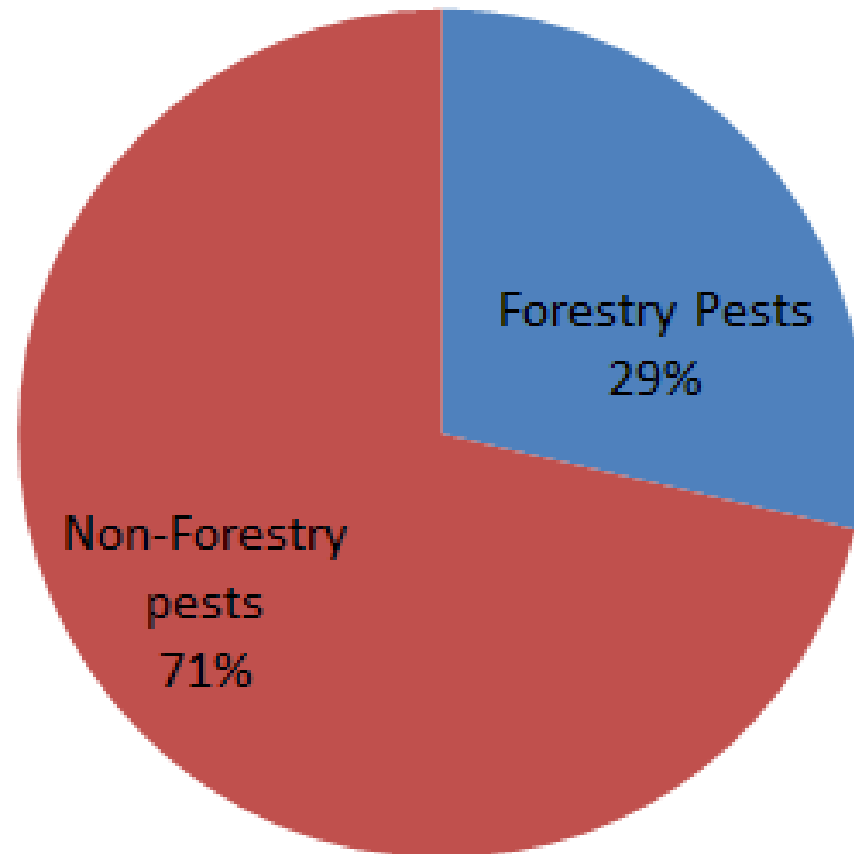
Number of Pests on the Risk Register

Types of pest assessed

Pest Type

Pest Type	Jan-15	Jan-14
Total	746	668
Other	3	2
Parasitic plants	9	9
Mites	11	10
Oomycetes	14	12
Phytoplasmas	18	16
Bacteria	34	30
Nematodes	47	43
Fungi	97	83
Virus or Viroids	92	87
Insects	421	374

Main hosts affected
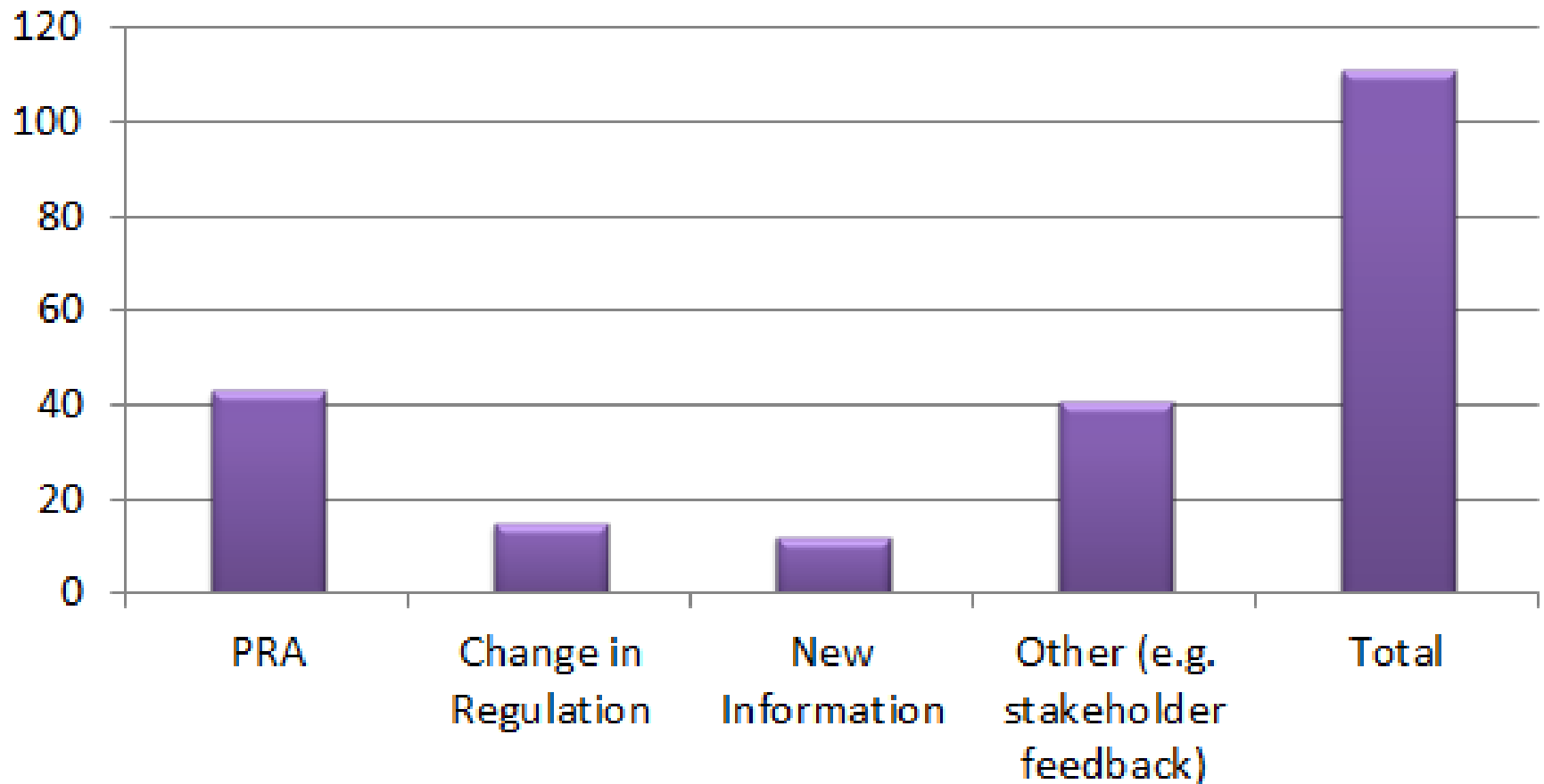

Forestry versus Non-Forestry Pests

Forestry Pests
29%

Non-Forestry
pests
71%

Existing entries kept under review

Reasons for Reviewing Entries

How it is used – UK actions

- Acute oak decline – established in parts of UK, but is intervention (e.g. research) warranted?
- *Xylella fastidiosa* – causing serious damage to olive groves in southern Italy; some subspecies affect trees – is the UK at risk?

European cooperation

Is anyone else using the Risk Register?

- Some fresh produce companies are using it to help source supplies

- Some nurseries are using it to identify risks to their businesses

- Stakeholders are kept informed of new issues

- Devolved Administrations are using to identify threats

- Plant health authorities from overseas are interested in the RR
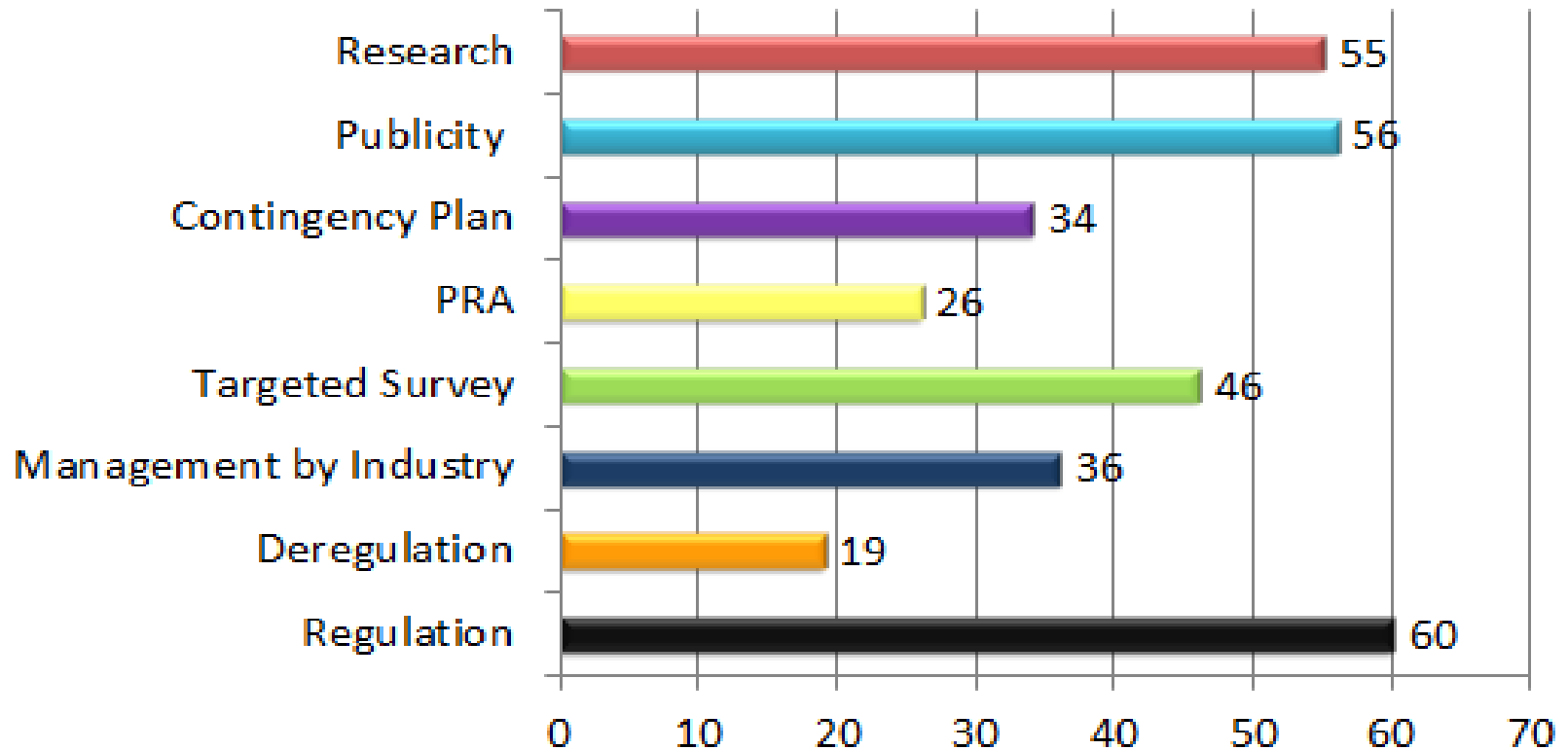
How can I get involved?

- Comments welcome on the Risk Register as a tool and evidence to support new or revised entries
- Check new entries being published each month
- Raise awareness with sectors and encourage their input
- Contribute to consultations on Pest Risk Analyses
- General comments at the THPG are helpful, but useful to receive direct replies from stakeholder groups and members
- Happy to extend consultation lists as necessary

Why should I get involved?

- RR is a dynamic tool and will only work with up to date evidence
- Outputs help preparedness against threats, but need to be effectively communicated and acted on
- Government does not have all the knowledge – we rely on information from industry and others
- Comments welcome from all, but THPG can help to co-ordinate the main sectors
- RR and PRA help to determine policy and prioritise actions – your chance to influence
- Outputs and actions directly affect members

Priority actions in the Risk Register

Number of Pests per Priority Action

- Research: 55
- Publicity: 56
- Contingency Plan: 34
- PRA: 26
- Targeted Survey: 46
- Management by Industry: 36
- Deregulation: 19
- Regulation: 60

Contingency Planning

1. Anticipate and assess
2. Preparation and response
3. Recovery

Strengthen biosecurity at the borders

Biosecurity Risks

Animal Health, Plant Health, Aquaculture Health, Non-Native Species

Pre-border | UK Border | Within UK

Assess | Avert | Anticipate | Adapt

Biosecurity continuum

1. Strengthening science & evidence to identify risks and to deal with outbreaks.

2. Creating a common approach to assessing risk across Defra and its network

3. Increased vigilance & prevention of risk material entering the UK

4. Better enforcement and responses to threats, to minimise the potential impact of disease and pest risks.

5. More public awareness and engagement with biosecurity.
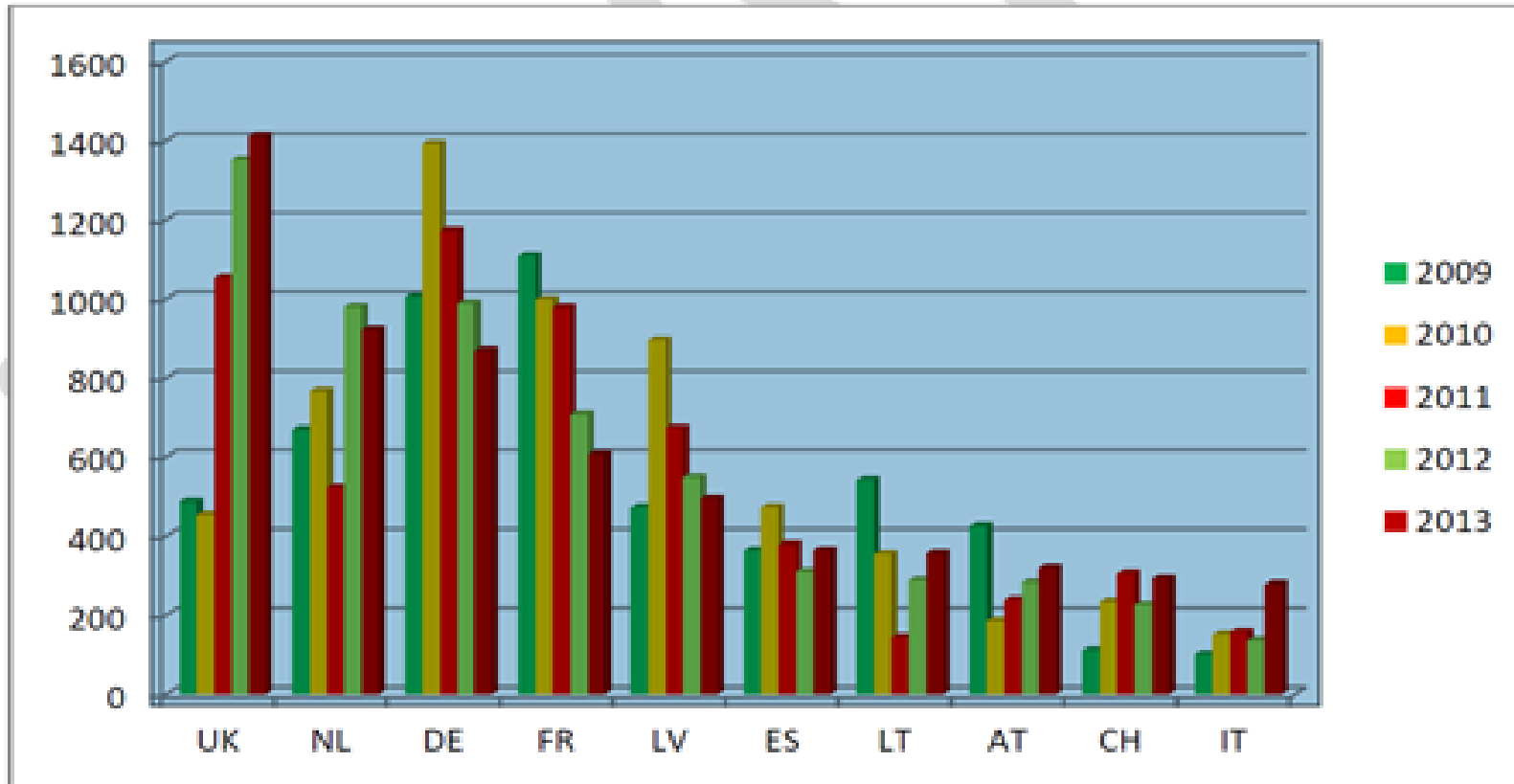
UK interception performance

Figure 2. Member States notifying the largest number of interceptions to EUROPHYT (2009-2013)

Biosecurity continuum

| Biosecurity Continuum	**Pre-Border** International collaboration to reduce the likelihood of pests arriving and gain advanced warning of pests	**Border** Checking to reduce the risk of pests crossing the borders, and feed intelligence back to risk assessment	**Inland** Early detection of pests, and a better ability to respond and to reduce the chance of establishment. Development of more resilient sectors to increase the ability to manage pests

Plant health skills and careers

Government Office for Science

Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs

Animal and Plant Health in the UK: Building our science capability

Developing plant health skills and career pathways
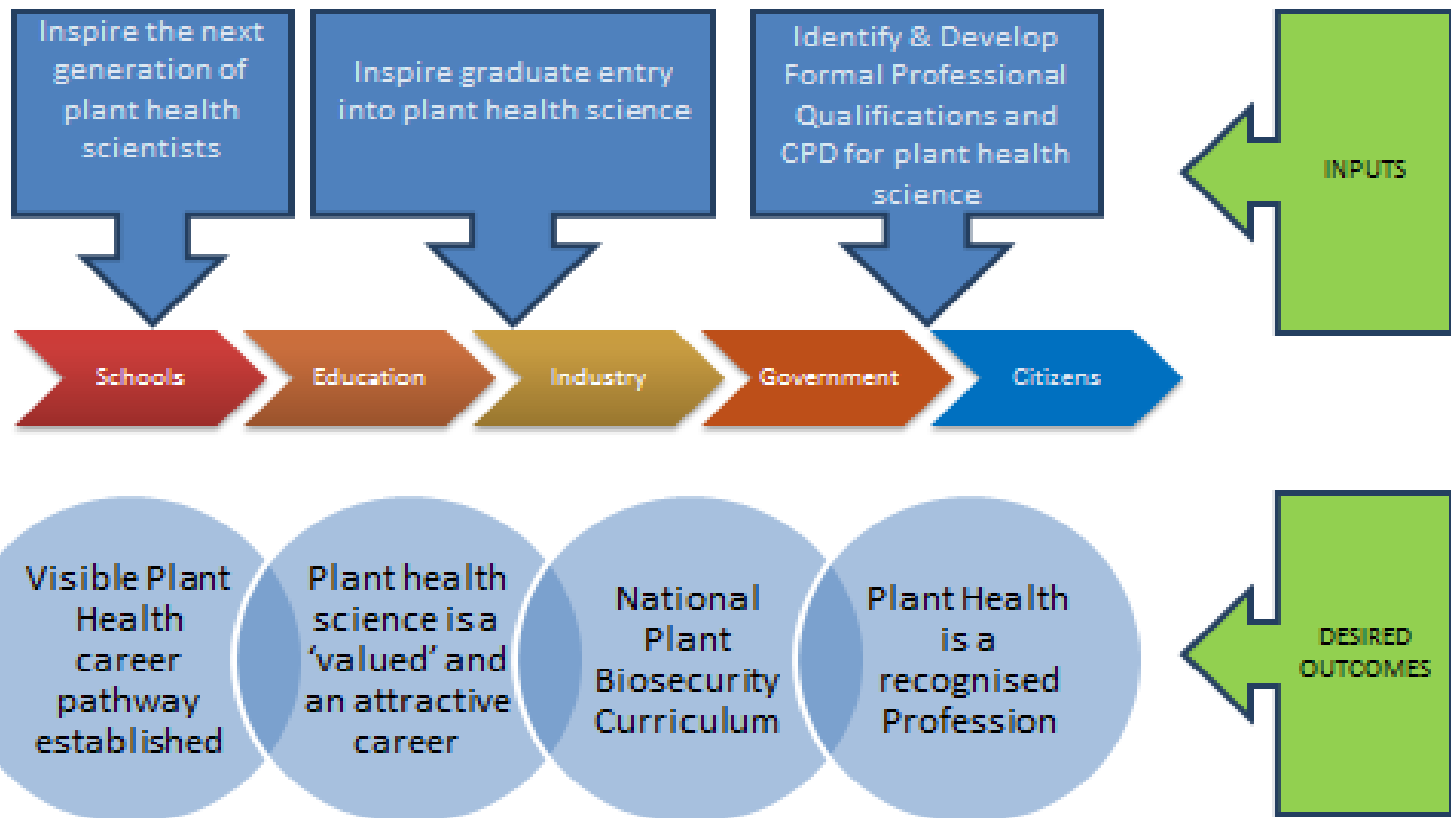
Engage and inspire citizens

OPAL –reporting pests and pathogens

Living Ash – identifying tolerance to Chalara

ObservaTREE – tree health early warning system

Chelsea Flower Show

MY TEAM

has won 4 RHS Chelsea Flower Show medals through gardens and exhibits that raise public awareness of plant health and how to reduce the spread of plant pests and diseases

Dr Paul Beales
Plant Health & Seeds
Inspectorate Public
Engagement Team
APHA

my defra

What's your team proud of?

Work in progress

- Review, simplify, and strengthen governance and legislation
- Risk Register Phase 2
- Improve the use of epidemiological intelligence from EU/other regions
- Plant Health Information portal

Thank you for your attention