Title: PHC2018/07 - The use of mobile technology to enhance plant health monitoring and awareness in Scotland

Background: Plant health is a major issue worldwide with many different pests and diseases threatening different plant-based sectors, e.g. forestry, agriculture, environment and horticulture. Keeping up to date with such threats has always been a major task in terms of pest and disease identification, geographic spread, monitoring and coordinating responses etc. yet, in the world of mobile technology, we now have an opportunity to achieve some of these things from apps on our phones. Questions around the use of such technology include: What options are available in terms of mobile technologies for plant health?; What is their primary purpose?; Who are they targeted towards - farmers, plant health professionals, citizen scientists etc? Are they accurate and reliable? Do they provide real time information to a central database?; Who uses such a database?; Which sectors are they designed to work in or are they cross sector?; Do they have global use or are they limited to certain geographic regions? A review of such technologies is needed to ascertain which are most appropriate for use in Scotland across a range of sectors, which could be further adapted to achieve this aim and, if further development is required, what are the key elements of such a technology that would need to be incorporated into such a mobile application?

Impact: Improved risk assessment; better equipped stakeholders and government plant health officials; improved coordination of plant health activities in Scotland.

Objectives and research required for this call: Desk exercise, stakeholder discussions, leading to synthesis and perspective article on existing approaches of mobile technology for plant health and their potential use in Scotland.

Outputs required:

- Discussion paper / report of the use of mobile technologies in plant health.
- 1-2 page policy summary, including an outline of the most appropriate mobile technologies / applications for use in Scotland.

Indicative key dates:

- Deadline for notes of interest: 27th September 2018
- Project start: 1st November 2018
- Overview of plans and project start-up meeting with PHC Directorate: by end November 2018
- Completed discussion paper and summary: 28th February 2019
- Meeting with Scottish stakeholders: by 31st March 2019

Milestones to be confirmed by bidder.

Project duration: 5 months

Date all work needs to be completed by: 28th February 2019

Project type: Call down – collaborative, synthesis

Maximum funding available (including overheads and VAT, where applicable): Indicative value £12,000