

Title: PHC2018/13 - Assessment of key areas of opportunity to improve biosecurity in Scotland

Background: Plant pests and pathogens lead to major economic, social, and environmental impacts. In response to this, plant health strategies at the UK and Scotland level target actions along the continuum from pre-border, border control, and in-country responses. A major challenge, however, is the sheer number and volume of human induced pest and pathogen movements, and the complicated landscape of the economic and social factors driving this. This leads to some steep operational gradients in the adherence to biosecurity practices – ranging from tightly regulated, carefully controlled, well-executed movement of materials, through to large scale transport of potential pest and pathogen containing material with less stringent biosecurity, and/or lower awareness of pest and pathogen risks.

The aim of this report is to make an initial assessment of selected biosecurity risks where changes in practice and/or increased awareness could make a substantial improvement to Scotland's biosecurity. Two initial topics have been identified:

- Biosecurity of source materials for major landscape planting in Scotland
- Biosecurity associated with online or non-traditional horticultural sales in or to Scotland

Impact: Identification of practical/tractable steps required to reduce biosecurity risks in Scotland

Objectives and research required for this call: Report / desk study, Scottish stakeholder discussions, industry consultation, initial evaluation of policy instruments.

Outputs required: Report summarising:

- Report / desk study of the drivers behind sub-optimal biosecurity in each area
- 1-2 page policy summary of primary sources of biosecurity risk for each area
- Suggestions for changes in practice or policy to reduce risk

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, synthesis.

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

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