To whom it may concern,

I am writing in response to your request for industry corroboration for the claims made in the REF2014 impact case study entitled “Control of bovine viral diarrhoea virus in livestock”.

Animal Health Ireland (AHI) was established in 2009, to facilitate both technical and non-technical discussion in Ireland on a range of non-regulatory animal health issues, to reach consensus, and to coordinate agreed national action. A range of issues have been prioritised, including BVD, Johne’s disease, mastitis, calf health, biosecurity and IBR. With respect to BVD, initial work focused on an agreed farm-based approach to control, however, this logically shifted to national agreement towards eradication. The national eradication programme started with a voluntary phase in January 2012, and the compulsory phase in January 2013. The programme is being coordinated across the Ireland, based on close collaboration between Animal Health Ireland and Animal Health and Welfare Northern Ireland.

The national BVD eradication programme is supported by a whole-of-island technical working group, to ensure that policy decision-making is underpinned by the best-available science. A number of research studies have been conducted, including an important study by SRUC predicting the costs and benefits of eradicating BVDV from Ireland\(^1\). Further, international input, from a range of European countries including Scotland, has been pivotal in ensuring that we benefit as much as possible from lessons learned elsewhere.

The work conducted by SRUC, both directly in support of AHI’s work as outlined above, and indirectly in terms of lessons learned from the Scottish BVD eradication programme, has played an important role in assisting Animal Health Ireland in its work towards BVD eradication from the national herd.

Yours faithfully

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