



QMS Coronavirus Guidance for Pig Assurance Scheme Members and Veterinary Surgeons on Remote Quarterly Vet Visits

Following on from the suspension of face to face assurance assessments and quarterly vet visits due to the Coronavirus pandemic. Many vet practices are no longer undertaking routine work, including quarterly vet visits for the Quality Meat Scotland Pigs Assurance scheme. QMS have put together alternative arrangements.

Where a quarterly vet visit is due, but cannot be completed as a physical visit, these visits can now be completed remotely:

Remote Quarterly Vet Visits

The remote QVR will consist of a few stages;

- A telephone conversation between the farmer and their vet to discuss the pig health and welfare on the unit.
- The use of livestream/video calling can be used to assist where appropriate.
- In order for the vet to complete the Quarterly Vet Visit Report, the vet will need to have sight of up to date medicine records, these documents can be sent to the vet via email/messaging apps/or through a video call.
- The vet must then complete a QVR form. The current QVR form has been amended to incorporate a tick box to highlight that the visit was completed remotely. The form can be found at <https://www.qmscotland.co.uk/pig-standards>
- There is no expectation for Real Welfare to be completed on a remote visit.
- Vets should submit their signed and completed remote QVR to Lloyds Register agriculture-ca@lr.org and forward a copy to the farm so that it is available for future QMS Assessments.
- For any QVRs unable to be completed in Q1 and up to 22nd April of Q2 due to the suspension of visits, a derogation has been granted by QMS and Lloyds Register assessors will make a note of this during future assessments.
- Going forward, if there is no documentary evidence that a quarterly visit (remote or physical) has taken place, a non-compliance will be raised.

We will be continually reviewing the advice from the Scottish Government and updates will be issued as required.