

## Invitation to participate in research on farmers' perceptions of BTV

You are warmly invited to participate in research conducted by the James Hutton Institute exploring the perceptions and concerns of cattle and sheep keepers in the Scottish borders around Blue Tongue Virus (BTV).

Until recently the UK was free from BTV but incursions in 2023 and 2024 resulted in several animal movement restriction zones in England. To date there have been no notified cases in Scotland. However, work carried out by the James Hutton team highlighted the concern felt by livestock keepers around the direct and indirect impact of dealing with BTV.

There is a possibility that measures to limit the impact of the disease by making all of England a restriction zone is incurring a financial and emotional burden on Scottish farmers and members of the livestock sector. This may have considerable impact on the cross-border trade of animals, and on people living and working in the borders area. Understanding the concerns of people impacted by the restriction zone, and a potential incursion into Scotland, will help inform policy makers and other relevant bodies in decision making when dealing with BTV, and enable a better understanding of how the livestock sector sees the threat of disease incursions.

If you would like to participate in the short survey, please follow this link

[https://hutton.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_a92fVbeH4cKRmx8](https://hutton.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_a92fVbeH4cKRmx8)

OR scan the QR code with your phone camera >



Participation is voluntary and you can withdraw from the study at any point. We will collect your name and contact details to be able to perform our tasks under this study and to invite you to participate in further activities as part of this research. This information will not be shared outside the immediate research team, and you will not be identifiable in any research outputs from this study. For further information, please see the privacy notice (<https://www.hutton.ac.uk/privacy-notice/>).

For more information on this project please contact:

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The project is funded by Scottish Government through the Centre for Expertise on Animal Disease Outbreaks (EPIC). For further information, please contact: Claire Hardy (JHI EPIC lead) [claire.hardy@hutton.ac.uk](mailto:claire.hardy@hutton.ac.uk) The James Hutton Institute, Aberdeen, AB15 8QH