

# Working alongside clients to accelerate their digital journeys

Livestock tracing matters. The economic and social cost of getting it wrong is massive. A National Audit Office report put the cost of the 2001 outbreak of foot and mouth disease at over £3 billion to the public sector and more than £5 billion to the private sector. The government, through DEFRA, could avoid some of these costs in future outbreaks by setting up a new multi-species tracing service.

To that end, Livestock Information Ltd was set up by DEFRA and Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board (AHDB) with the purpose of implementing and running the Livestock Information Service (LIS).

The LIS aimed to become a single England-wide tool enabling industry and government to:

- Better control chronic endemic livestock diseases
- Terminate exotic disease outbreaks quickly and effectively
- Drive positive change in productivity and sustainability
- Develop a competitive trade advantage by building trade partners and consumer confidence in the provenance of British meat and livestock products

To achieve these ambitions, it was recognised that improvements could be made to the underlying systems and processes. Some of them were over 20 years old. The ambition was to create a new multi-species LIS, which would make livestock record management simpler and more convenient.



## Key benefits:

As a result of the solution, the following benefits have been achieved:

- A detailed understanding and track record of complex IT delivery in Government
- A partnership-first approach
- The ability to scale up and down to meet fluctuating demand for both core and ancillary services
- Provision of additional expertise and services at short notice to aid LIS using the wider CGI network

In 2019, Shearwell Data Ltd (SDL) was awarded a contract by Livestock Information Ltd to provide the underpinning software for the LIS. SDL is both a farming business and a family business employing 135 staff. Since 1996, SDL had been involved in developing tools and software to gather and manage livestock data more efficiently. The culmination of this work was the creation of the National Livestock Management Database - Livestock Traceability (NLMD-LT). The contract included a licence to use NLMD-LT as the basis for the LIS. To evolve NLMD-LT to deliver LIS, SDL needed support to face two challenges:

- How to undertake large-scale complex agile IT delivery into the public sector
- How to refactor aspects of the existing IP to make it cloud-ready and include all the integration points needed with third party systems

## Working together - to overcome complexity

Although SDL were specialists in livestock data collection and management, they recognised they needed a collaborative partner with experience, depth of technical expertise and the capability to deliver to the central government. SDL chose to work with CGI, an IT and business consulting services firm with decades of experience in delivering large and complex public sector projects. Together we formed an effective partnership to secure the initial tender.

As part of the ongoing programme, we continue to support SDL with a range of services including:

- Agile development teams – providing up to 40 full-range technical and supporting resources as needed
- Programme management – we continue to lead the day-to-day programme delivery for the core software delivery activities, supporting SDL with the commercial management of the engagement
- Architecture – we continue to help define the cloud architecture and integration layer alongside Livestock Information Ltd architects

In addition to the above, we provide resources and services to the wider Livestock Information Ltd team, including:

- Accessibility testing
- Performance testing
- Programme management office (PMO)

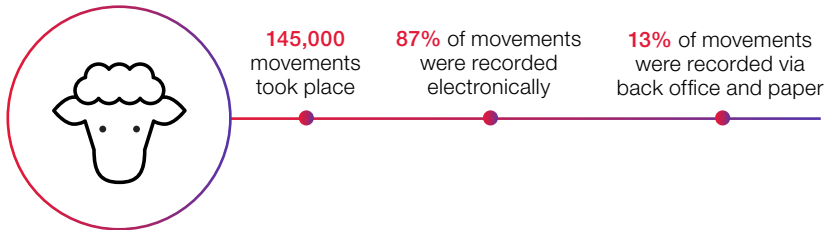
“For 15 years, I have held a vision to help move livestock track and trace systems forward to a modern integrated digital model that meets the needs of all stakeholders. This has now been successfully achieved with the help of CGI. Their expertise and knowledge of technology, coupled with their long-standing experience of working with the central government has meant a successful outcome and provided a solid foundation on which to build to even greater things”

**Richard Webber**  
Shearwell Data Ltd

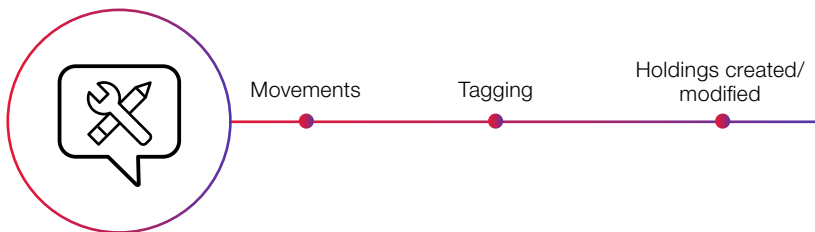
## Results

As a result of CGI delivering in partnership with SDL and Livestock Information Ltd, the programme successfully went live with a multi-species service for sheep, goats and deer. In the first 90 days of going live:

**6.2 million** animals were moved



**240,000** services requests were completed for



**224,000** registered holdings



Performed **six scheduled releases** providing enhanced functionality for users of the Live service



In summary, although the modernisation of the livestock systems was a complex project with varied stakeholders and integration points, the introduction of the new livestock traceability service has been unequivocally successful.

### About CGI

Founded in 1976, CGI is among the largest IT and business consulting services firms in the world. At CGI, we are insights-led and outcome-based to help clients accelerate returns on their investments.

**For more information**

Visit [cgi.com/uk](https://cgi.com/uk)