

## Ongoing biosecurity protection: frequently asked questions related to KVH's 2026 proposal



**This document will be refreshed during engagement with growers and new information placed at the top, as needed.**

### **Why does KVH need more funding now?**

KVH's responsibility is to ensure the industry is prepared and can respond quickly and effectively to biosecurity events. That requires people, systems, and capability to be in place, protecting your orchard, before an event occurs.

Right now, they are, and we need to ensure they will remain at that level into the future.

The cost of maintaining readiness and responding effectively has increased, and the industry's obligations under the Government Industry Agreement for Biosecurity (GIA) have been clearly demonstrated with five biosecurity responses in the last two years.

### **Haven't levies already gone up a lot in recent years?**

Levy rates have remained steady for several seasons, since 2021 when we lowered our Biosecurity levy by 0.2c per tray due to having built sufficient reserves. With recent response costs, that means the real level of protection through sufficient reserves is slowly eroding.

### **What happens if levies don't increase?**

Sufficient reserves mean faster, more effective response when it counts. The proposed increase is prudent and focused on maintaining capability, without which KVH will have fewer options. That may mean reduced readiness in some areas; less flexibility during a response; or even increased reliance on increasing levies reactively at the worst possible time - when it comes to biosecurity, funding and preparedness capability is not something that can be rebuilt quickly in the middle of an incursion.

### **How do we know the money won't just build up and sit in reserves?**

KVH operates under a Board-approved Reserves Policy. Funds are held to meet known biosecurity liabilities and response obligations, not to accumulate surplus unnecessarily. Reserves are reviewed annually and reported transparently at the AGM and in our Annual Report.

### **Will this mean more staff or bigger programmes?**

No expansion is proposed. The focus is on maintaining and strengthening core capability, not expanding KVH's role.

### **Is government paying their share?**

KVH continues to operate as a partner of the Government Industry Agreement for Biosecurity (GIA), which provides for pre-agreed cost-sharing during responses. Strong industry readiness - in partnership - helps ensure government support can be accessed quickly and effectively.

### **How much difference will this make to me as a grower?**

The proposed change is small on a per-tray basis, but collectively ensures the industry remains protected against very large potential losses from a biosecurity event.

The current levy sits at 0.8c per tray, with a proposed increase for the 2027-28 financial year of 0.2 cents per tray.

**Has the KVH Board already decided on this?**

The Board has agreed for KVH to engage with growers to ensure understanding of the proposal and provide opportunities for questions and feedback before putting forward any resolution for AGM voting.

**What happens next?**

Grower feedback is gathered; common themes are reflected in AGM documentation distributed to all grower members in late July; and the levy resolution is formally presented and voted on at the KVH AGM, Thursday 20 August.