

# MINUTES OF VMD MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING HELD ON 15 DECEMBER 2021

## Members

Julia Drown (Chair)  
David Catlow  
Philippa Hardwick  
Timothy Riley

## Present

Abigail Seager – VMD  
Gavin Hall - VMD  
Mike Griffiths – VMD  
Julian Flexman - VMD  
Suzanne Eckford – VMD  
Ken Stapleton - VMD  
Sam Fletcher - VMD  
Chris Abbott – VMD (note taker)

### 1. Announcements and apologies for absence

1.1 There were no apologies.

### 2. Declarations of interest in the matters to be discussed

2.1 None.

### 3. Minutes of the meeting held on 28 September 2021

VMDMB 21/32

3.1 The minutes were agreed.

### 4. Matters Arising/Actions

VMDMB 21/33

4.1 The issue of SQP training would be revisited after its review had been completed by the Inspections team.

#### ACTION

### 5. Focus topic: Environmental Issues

5.1 VMD human and environmental safety scientific assessors Ken Stapleton and Sam Fletcher gave presentations on environmental issues of current interest. An environmental impact assessment is required for all products before they are authorised in order to minimise any harmful effects. There has been considerable debate about the impact of substances used in flea and tick treatments for dogs on waterways and VMD has commissioned research into the extent which veterinary medicines are the cause of any contamination which is due to conclude in 2023. In the meantime, it continues to collaborate with relevant stakeholders about the available evidence. These products benefit animal health and risks are mitigated if products are used according to their instructions.

5.2 VMD is undertaking a project is to explore authorisation routes for medicinal products that reduce greenhouse gas emissions; digestion by cows is thought to be responsible for 39% of emissions from agricultural activities. Legislation is already in place for products which are intended to reduce this to be developed and authorised, although the challenges will lie in establishing efficacy and dealing with ethical concerns. The FSA is also looking at the effects of feed supplements. It was noted that environmental issues are becoming increasingly important and high profile.

### 6. CEO's Report

VMDMB 21/34

6.1 The CEO's report was presented and reviewed.

### 7. Delivery against the Business Plan 2021/22

VMDMB 21/35

7.1 The delivery report was reviewed and the good progress made against targets noted.

**8. Finance report**

**VMDMB 21/36**

8.1 The finance report was noted.

**9. Management Board work plan**

**VMDMB 21/37**

9.1 It was agreed to consider the VMD's approach to sustainability and carbon zero at the March meeting and the results of the annual customer survey in July.

**10. Any other business**

10.1 It was noted that figures on staff turnover had not been presented and would be provided at the next meeting.

**11. Dates of future meetings**

11.1 The next meeting would be held on 23 March.

**Veterinary Medicines Directorate  
December 2021**