Members | Others Present
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Julia Drown - Chair | Peter Borriello – CEO VMD
David Catlow | Paul Green – VMD
David Corner | Abigail Seager - VMD
 | Mike Griffiths – VMD
Observers | Linda Simmons – VMD
 | Chris Abbott – VMD: Note taker

1. **Apologies for absence and announcements**
   1.1 Apologies were received from CVO Christine Middlemiss and David Kennedy (Director General (FFAB)).

2. **Declarations of interest in the matters to be discussed**
   2.1 None

3. **Minutes of the last meeting**
   3.1 The minutes were agreed.

4. **Matters Arising**
   4.1 None.

5. **Focus topic: EU Exit**
   5.1 Directors reported that operational readiness status for EU Exit, and a no deal scenario in particular, has gone from amber/red to the verge of being green. A Veterinary Medicines Availability & Disease Emergency Response (VADER) plan has been put in place to deal with all contingencies and a dedicated operations room has been set up. IT services are ready and include a new online submissions portal, pharmacovigilance reporting systems and a secure messaging service which had just gone live; 34 companies have already signed up. Guidance for customers on what has been achieved has been published in the VMD’s EU Exit Hub to which feedback has been positive. It is expected to be 100% complete in the next few days. Preparations have been made for a deal or no deal result.

   5.2 Two Exit related Statutory Instruments, dealing with technical and other measures including the powers to set MRLs and to convert centralised European marketing authorisations to UK authorisations, have gone through readings in parliament without any major objections being raised. The risk of an ‘airgap’ after Exit before legislative action can be taken is low and not causing concern.

   5.2 In regards to maintaining supply chains and possible disruption at the borders, DExEU has given veterinary medicines the highest priority and a category 1 listing. VMD has held talks with NOAH to advise them about stockbuilding and to help them develop a new early warning system. VMD officials also meet weekly with the biggest wholesalers and have developed relationships with other relevant government departments such as HMRC. VMD has taken responsibility for helping vets and ensuring availability of medicines by drawing up a list of the
1400 most critical products and identifying at least two alternatives for each which can be sourced under the cascade. Longer term responses, such as developing new autogenous vaccines and extemporaneous preparations, have also been investigated. It was noted that the emergency plans which have been established will also prove useful to the VMD longer term after Exit.

5.3 Members were very impressed by all the work which had been done and asked that their congratulations be passed on to the teams involved.

6. **CEO’s Report**

   **Annexes**

   6.1 The CEO’s report was presented and noted.

7. **Delivery against the Business Plan 2018/19**

   7.1 The Business Plan was reviewed and it was noted that there were only three amber measures remaining which all related to EU Exit and were due to be resolved soon. The 2019/20 plan will be reviewed at the next meeting.

8. **Finance Reports**

   8.1 Members noted that budgets were on target for full cost recovery for 2018/19.

9. **Management Board annual assessment form**

   9.1 Members requested that a minor amendment be made to the forms before they are circulated.

10. **Management Board Work Plan**

    10.1 It was noted that the CVO has been invited to the next meeting. It was suggested that the Defra’s head of animal health and welfare, Alex Thomas, also be invited. Possible subjects for future meetings include the authorisation of homeopathic medicines and veterinary devices, non-industry stakeholders and the new science strategy.

    **ACTION**

11. **Any Other Business**

    11.1 It was noted that Members’ Declarations of interests are due to be reviewed and VMD will send them the appropriate forms to complete.

    **ACTION**

12. **Future meetings**

    12.1 The next meeting will be held on 22 May 2019.

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Veterinary Medicines Directorate
April 2019