

# MINUTES OF VMD MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING HELD ON 5 DECEMBER 2019

Members	Others Present
Julia Drown - Chair David Catlow David Corner	Peter Borriello - VMD Abigail Seager - VMD Mike Griffiths – VMD Linda Simmons – VMD
Observers	Jean-Paul Schmidt – VMD
Natalie Sweeny - VMD	Alex Harper - VMD Chris Abbott – VMD: Note taker

## 1. Apologies for absence and announcements

- 1.1 Apologies were received from Paul Green, Christine Middlemiss and David Kennedy. Natalie Sweeny, the Directors' office manager, was welcomed as an observer.

## 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.

**VMDMB 19/27**

## 4. Matters Arising

- 4.1 The action on Defra's People Finder Directory was being postponed due to other actions taking place. There were no other matters arising.

**VMDMB 19/28**

## 5. Focus topic: Science Strategy project and novel therapies work

- 5.1 Pharmaceuticals assessor Jean-Paul Schmidt gave a presentation on the VMD's ongoing Science Strategy project and work on novel therapies. Alex Harper also attended to give a view from the Biologicals team. The aim of the project is to identify priority topics and scientific challenges which are arising outside of usual business and develop a strategy to ensure we are equipped to address them. The VMD is doing some of this work already but it was recognised that there is a need to bring it all under one umbrella in a formal structure. This is particularly important now as the EU has historically led on these issues. To help achieve this, regular meetings are held with the MHRA to look at issues of mutual interest and knowledge exchange is being encouraged with other regulatory bodies. VMD is also looking to develop a network of external specialists and develop the knowledge and skills of its own scientists. There is still a need to define other endpoints but a key test will be the ability to properly assess novel products. Other aims are to develop a scientific advice service and identify and deal with new technologies. The strategy will be published once drafted and stakeholders have been consulted.

**VMDMB 19/29**

- 5.2 Members noted that it was an important subject and it was agreed to review progress again in a year's time.

### **ACTION**

## 6. CEO's Report

- 6.1 The CEO's report was presented and reviewed.

**VMDMB 19/30**

**VMDMB 19/31**

- 7. Delivery against the Business Plan 2019/20** **VMDMB 19/32**
- 7.1 Members noted that good progress had been made against the Business plan. It was agreed that a review of the KPIs would be useful and this would be done at the next meeting.  
**ACTION**
- 8. Finance Report** **VMDMB 19/33**
- 8.1 The Finance Report was reviewed and Members noted the inclusion of a new table on debt. Delivering to budget would be very tight, even though the number of Marketing Authorisations applied for had not dropped as far as might have been expected this year.
- 9. Management Board Work Plan** **VMDMB 19/34**
- 9.1 It was agreed to review the EU Exit plan and KPIs at the next meeting, along with the management of debt if time permits.  
**ACTION**
- 10. Any Other Business**
- 10.1 There was no other business.
- 11. Future meetings**
- 11.1 The next meeting will be held on 19 March 2019.

**Veterinary Medicines Directorate  
December 2019**