



ASSURING THE SAFETY, QUALITY & EFFICACY
OF VETERINARY MEDICINES

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ATI 291

Request

From: [Redacted under section 40 of the FOIA]

Sent: 4 March 2014

Subject: Freedom of Information Act (2000) Requests

- 1, Who attended the VMD workshop "The Management of Medicated Feedingstuffs Prescriptions" held in December 2013?
- 2, What the agenda of the meeting was?
- 3, What the contents of invite letters / post-event correspondence to attendees was?
- 4, What the recorded minutes of the meeting were?

VMD Reply

Sent: 17 March 2014

To: [Redacted under section 40 of the FOIA]

Subject: Freedom of Information Act (2000) Requests

Your Request

Thank you for your email dated 4 March 2014.

We are dealing with your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

You asked

- Who attended the VMD workshop "The Management of Medicated Feedingstuffs Prescriptions" held in December 2013?
- What the agenda of the meeting was?
- What the contents of invite letters / post-event correspondence to attendees was?
- What the recorded minutes of the meeting were?

Our Reply

Attendees

I have attached [below] a list of those organisations that sent representatives to the VMD workshop “The Management of Medicated Feedingstuffs Prescriptions” held in December 2013 and the job titles of VMD staff that attended.

Agenda

I have attached a copy of the agenda [below].

Contents of invite letters

I have attached a document with the text we sent in emails as an invitation to the workshop [below].

Minutes of the meeting

The VMD did not take a formal minute of this inter-active workshop. It did take rough notes of proceedings and the Medicated Feedingstuffs team are preparing these for publication soon.

As we said in our reply to ATI285, we judge that this information is covered by section 22 of the FOIA, which covers “information intended for future publication”. Section 22 applies where there is an intention to publish the requested information at some future date. This ensures that the FOIA does not force public authorities into premature publication of information.

Section 22 is subject to a public interest balance. After careful consideration we conclude that the public interest in withholding the information at this time strongly outweighs that for disclosure. We believe that the public interest is best served if the VMD is permitted to publish information in a manner and form and at a time of our own choosing. It is a part of the effective conduct of public affairs that the general publication of information is a conveniently planned and managed activity within the reasonable control of public authorities. Where we have taken the decision in principle to publish, here as part of the Workshop’s follow-up activity, we have a reasonable entitlement to make own arrangements to do so. In addition, we take the view that immediate disclosure would undermine our pre-publication procedures, which is currently underway.

Withholding certain names

Under Schedule 2 of the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA) we have redacted the names of the VMD staff and external attendees from the attached papers. The disclosure of these names would breach the first data protection principle and fail to meet any of the relevant conditions set out in Schedule 2 of the Data Protection Act 1998. The First Principle in the DPA requires that disclosure must be fair and lawful, and, in particular, personal data shall not be processed unless at least one of the conditions in Schedule 2 is satisfied. The person concerned would not have expected their name to be disclosed to the public

and so disclosure would not be "fair" in the manner contemplated by the DPA. Furthermore, disclosure would not satisfy any of the conditions for data processing set out in Schedule 2 of the DPA. In particular, we do not consider that there is a legitimate interest in disclosure in this case. There is no public interest in making information about such an individual available in this way contrary to what would have been their legitimate expectation at the time the information was gathered.

Paul Green attended the workshop as the VMD's Director of Operations. Paul is a member of the Senior Civil Service and so we can disclose his name under the DPA.

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Our Service

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint, you may request an internal review within two calendar months of the date of this e-mail. If you would like to request an internal review please write to [Redacted under section 40 of the FOIA] at the VMD via ati@vmd.defra.gsi.gov.uk. If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office

Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

**VETERINARY MEDICINES DIRECTORATE
THE MANAGEMENT OF MEDICATED FEEDINGSTUFFS PRESCRIPTIONS
WORKSHOP
Wednesday 11 December 2013
LIST OF ATTENDEES**

VMD:

Director of Operations
Head of Legislation Team

#741973v1

Head of Inspections & Investigations Team (IIT)
IIT Inspector
Legislation team - Medicated Feeds
Legislation team - Medicated Feeds
Manager - Legislation team
Legislation team
Veterinary Assessor

Organisation
Scottish Government
Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD)
Centre for Environment Fisheries & Aquaculture Science (CEFAS)
Scottish Fish Health Inspectorate
Responsible Use of Medicines in Agriculture (RUMA)
Agricultural Industries Confederation (AIC)
BOCM
A.B. Agri Ltd
KANCO
Primary Diets
Fish Veterinary Society (FVS)
British Veterinary Association (BVA)
Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS)
British Poultry Veterinary Association (BPVA)
Pig Veterinary Society (PVS)
British Cattle Veterinary Association (BCVA)
NFU England
National Farmers Union (NFU) Scotland
British Poultry Council (BPC)
National Pig Association (NPA)
Royal Association of British Dairy Farmers (RABD)
British Trout Association (BTA)
Game Farmers Association
Skretting (UK)

**VETERINARY MEDICINES DIRECTORATE
THE MANAGEMENT OF MEDICATED FEEDINGSTUFFS PRESCRIPTIONS
WORKSHOP**

Wednesday 11 December 2013

10.30 a.m. – 4.30 p.m.

Main Conference Suite, Weybourne Building, AHVLA, New Haw, Surrey

AGENDA

Registration and tea/coffee

1. Welcome and Introduction

Head of Legislation Team, VMD

2. Presentations:

Head of Legislation Team, VMD

RUMA

AIC

BVA

NFU

A short position paper will be presented by NFU Scotland.

3. Discussion

- Discussion on the issues highlighted by each sector in their presentations:- AIC, BVA, NFU.
- Discussion to highlight specific issues relating to each species sector.

Buffet lunch - 12:45 - 13:30

4. Break out groups

- Break out groups to include representatives from each sector.
- Groups to discuss and suggest solutions.

5. Short presentation of each break out group solutions.

6. Summing up of solutions.

7. Agreed way forward and first draft of Action Plan and timelines.

8. Next meeting.

E-MAIL 4 for named individuals in organisations.

Dear

For some time now the Veterinary Medicines Directorate has been aware that the procedures used by stakeholders for the prescribing and supply of medicated feeds needs to be improved. In the past few years we have published two best practice notes on medicated feedingstuffs prescribing but these appear to have had little influence. (<http://www.vmd.defra.gov.uk/mswd/MFSp.aspx>)

Given that the largest proportion of veterinary antibiotics are administered to livestock in medicated feeds and with the concern over antibiotic resistance, the use of best practice in the prescribing and supply of medicated feed is of great importance.

Therefore we intend to hold a workshop with all stakeholders with the aim of developing and agreeing an action plan and then hold subsequent meetings until all actions are in place and best practice is achieved.

We understand that there are challenges in all sectors and in order for the VMD and all other sectors to understand these challenges and to agree a way forward, the workshop is being set up to involve all the overarching sector representatives, (for regulators, vets, feed business operators and farmers) and the individual species representatives, (for poultry, game, cattle, pigs and fish) in which the VMD will present an introduction and outline the problems from our point of view and in which individual sector representatives will present their challenges, a discussion on the issues will take place and an action plan agreed.

The dates available for the workshop are:-

12 November, 2013

11 December 2013

I should like to invite you to attend the workshop.

The logistics of arranging this meeting means that we need your response as soon as possible, please will you let me know which of these dates you are available by Friday 23 August 2013 and I will confirm the most appropriate date as soon as possible.

If you have any questions in the meantime, please contact me.

Thank you in anticipation of your help.

Regards