



Veterinary  
Products  
Committee

**The Annual Report 2014  
of the  
Veterinary Products Committee  
and its sub-committee, the  
Medical and Scientific Panel**

# The Veterinary Products Committee

## Contents

Introduction by the Chairman .....	2
Overview of the Veterinary Products Committee (VPC) .....	2
Who we are .....	2
What we do.....	2
Membership.....	3
Access to information .....	3
Meetings.....	4
Summary of topics considered .....	4
Applications considered.....	4
Evaluation of the VMD's assessments of applications for Marketing Authorisations .....	4
Pharmacovigilance .....	5
Triennial review of the VPC .....	5
Reports from the Medical and Scientific Panel .....	6
The UK Veterinary Antibiotic Resistance and Sales Surveillance Report.....	6
The annual report of the Medical and Scientific Panel .....	7
Introduction by the Chairman.....	7
Who we are .....	7
Meetings .....	7
Costs .....	8
Transparency .....	8
Contacts .....	8
Administrative support .....	8
Reporting a suspected adverse event involving a veterinary medicinal product.....	9
ANNEX 1 .....	10
Terms of Reference.....	10
ANNEX 2.....	11
Membership and biographical details .....	11
ANNEX 3.....	18
Declarations of Interest: A Code of Practice for Members of the VPC and its Sub-Committees .....	18
Declaration of interests in the pharmaceutical industry.....	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>

## Introduction by the Chairman

Five members had retired from the Committee at the end of 2013. At our January meeting we welcomed Sally Harmer, a Suitably Qualified Person (large animal), which is a new post on the Committee, and welcomed back Stephen Lister, a poultry veterinary surgeon, who had served on the Committee from 2002 to 2009.

In May we agreed that the Medical and Scientific Panel (MSP) should be wound up. Over the years the Panel has reviewed thousands of research papers. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of them, both past and present, for their commitment and the sound advice they have given us.

I would also like to record my thanks to Colin Robertson, Francis Burke and Nicola Ackerman for collaborating on a paper on needlestick injuries which has been submitted for publication.

During 2014 our website material moved to the GOV.UK site ([www.gov.uk/](http://www.gov.uk/)) and is now available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/veterinary-products-committee>. The style and layout has changed and the need for some information has been reviewed but all of the information available before the changeover in October is available on the national archives website at [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/).

**Professor Bill Reilly,  
Chair,  
Veterinary Products Committee**

## Overview of the Veterinary Products Committee (VPC)

### Who we are

The VPC is an independent scientific advisory committee, established in 1970 by an Order made under section 4 of the Medicines Act 1968. Although the Order was revoked by the Veterinary Medicines Regulations (VMR) 2005, the regulations specified that there should continue to be a VPC.

The VMR are revoked and replaced regularly. The current regulations are the VMR 2013 (SI 2013/2033), which are available on the GOV.UK [website](#).

In 2010 the Government's Arms' Length Body review, in considering our and similar bodies' future, agreed that we should continue in our current format.

During 2013 Defra conducted the first triennial review of the Committee, which concluded that there was a continuing need for the committee.

### What we do

The Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) consults us when it requires advice on specific scientific issues relating to marketing authorisations (MAs), exceptional MAs, or animal test certificates (ATCs). In the light of this advice, the VMD decides whether to grant or refuse a MA or an ATC, grant one that is different from that which was applied for, vary it other than on the application of the holder, suspend or revoke it, or refuse to grant a variation applied for by the holder. Further information on the work of the VMD and the authorisation process is available on the GOV.UK [website](#).

We consider reports of suspected adverse events relating to veterinary medicines and provide advice to the VMD.

We also consider appeals when the VMD intends to suspend a MA on the grounds of safety, quality or efficacy, or to refuse to grant a MA or an ATC, grant one that is different from that which was applied for, vary it other than on the application of the holder, refuse to grant a variation applied for by the holder, or revoke it.

Our terms of reference are available at Annex 1

### **Membership**

A full list of our members, including biographical details is available at Annex 2.

Members of the VPC and the MSP are usually appointed for a period of four years under procedures laid down by the office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments. Their guidance allows members who have served one term to be re-appointed subject to, among other things, satisfactory performance and ministerial agreement.

Exercises to appoint members are held every two years and the specialisms to be recruited are advertised on the [Cabinet Office, Public Appointments](#) website. The next round of appointments will be held during 2015. Terms of office normally begin on 1 January.

### **Access to information**

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires all Non-Departmental Government Bodies to have an approved publication scheme in place. Ours is available, free of charge on the GOV.UK [website](#).

We received four Freedom of Information requests in 2014. The first, concerning the VPC's ICT (Information and Communications Technology) department and suppliers was subsequently withdrawn when the status of the VPC was explained to the enquirer.

The replies to the remainder, ([ATI303](#), seeking full, itemised expenses claims for the VPC's chief executive and senior management team for the last three full financial years, [ATI311](#), asking for a breakdown of the payments made by the VPC to the Confederation of British Industry and its subsidiaries, 2009 -2014, and [ATI315](#) asking for information about the number of VPC employees receiving remuneration in excess of £100,000) were answered by the VMD and are available on the GOV.UK [website](#).

All VPC reports, summary minutes of VPC and sub-committee meetings held between 2009 and May 2014, and all papers not considered commercially sensitive are available on the national archives website at [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/) and free of charge from the VMD. Copies of summary minutes of earlier VPC meetings are available from the VMD.

## Meetings

We held regular meetings in January, May and October and summary minutes of our May and October meetings are available on [GOV.UK](#). We held our open meeting at the [Animal and Plant Health Agency](#) in October. Following an introduction by the Chairman, Stephen Lister gave an interesting and informative presentation entitled '*Pharmacovigilance – a new approach?*' which looked at the changes in the way that the VMD reports suspected adverse events to us following the introduction of the Proportional Reporting Ratio system in 2013.

## Summary of topics considered

### Applications considered

In January we considered an application for a variation to an autogenous vaccine manufacturing authorisation. In October, we considered a variation to change the legal category of a product authorised for use in dogs and cats and, in both cases, we gave our advice to the VMD.

Further information on the applications we have considered is available in the summary minutes of our meetings, available on [GOV.UK](#).

### Evaluation of the VMD's assessments of applications for Marketing Authorisations

Each year, as part of the VMD's published standards, we carry out an evaluation of the VMD's assessment of new applications for marketing authorisations made under the national and European procedures. We consider the initial assessment reports which reflect the VMD's assessment rather than the final assessment reports and, if necessary, we are able to examine particular studies in the supporting data.

Our evaluation role is to provide a measure of the quality of the science based decisions reached by the VMD's assessors. Our assessment does not provide information on either the readability or presentation of assessment reports which are assessed internally.

In January we discussed five products we had previously selected at our meeting in September 2013. We concluded that the VMD assessments for each product should, overall, be rated as performance level 1, i.e. that the assessors had identified all potentially serious risks to human and animal health or for the environment and put together a comprehensive list of relevant questions for the applicant which were clearly expressed and justified/explained.

Our evaluation was included in the overall performance assessment of the VMD, published in the VMD's [Annual Report and Accounts 2013/2014](#).

At our October meeting we again selected five products and agreed to provide the VMD with our individual assessments before the end of the year and to discuss them at our first meeting in 2015. Our evaluation will be included in the overall performance assessment of the VMD to be published in its Annual Report and Accounts 2014/2015.

We also considered proposals to amend the evaluation procedure; these will be implemented in 2015.

## Pharmacovigilance

We continued to monitor veterinary pharmacovigilance activities through the reports compiled by the VMD's Pharmacovigilance Unit of

adverse events reports in animals involving veterinary medicines provisionally classified as serious

adverse events reports in humans (defined as a reaction which is noxious and unintended and which occurs in a human being following exposure to a veterinary medicine), and

environmental incidents associated with the use or administration of authorised veterinary medicines.

Ahead of each VPC meeting, the VMD's multidisciplinary Alert Group discusses the Pharmacovigilance Unit's findings from the period under review. All scientific assessment teams are represented in the group to ensure that all relevant aspects of the products being discussed and how they are used are taken into account.

During 2014 the VMD presented the Alert Group's conclusions following signal detection analysis of the 5885 animal reports received from 1 August 2013 to 31 July 2014. Details were also presented of the 118 reports concerning adverse events in humans received during this period. No environmental incidents were reported. Adverse events reports received from August to November 2014 will be considered at our meeting in January 2015.

Further information on the reports considered is available in the minutes of our meetings, available on [GOV.UK](http://GOV.UK).

Further information on pharmacovigilance is available on [GOV.UK](http://GOV.UK).

Each year, the VMD publishes, in the *Vet Record*, a report of the suspected adverse events it has received. The most recent report, for 2013, was published in [Volume 176, Issue 1](#).

## Triennial review of the VPC

The report of the first triennial review of the Committee was published in January 2014 and is available on GOV.UK. The report concluded that our independent scientific and technical advisory functions remained important, and that we should remain as an advisory non-departmental public body. It recommended:

- that as there is currently no formal process in place to consider the VPC's performance of its functions, a report is made to the VMD Executive, on an annual basis, describing the work carried out by the VPC, the resulting actions and how they have influenced VMD decision making, and
- bringing the VPC into line with best practice to ensure that members clear with the Senior Sponsor, in advance, any appointment or employment taken up within two years of leaving VPC where their official duties resulted in personal involvement with the company or other

organisation making the offer, or access to commercially sensitive information.

### **Reports from the Medical and Scientific Panel**

The MSP met in April 2014 to consider the COT (Committee on Toxicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment)'s [Statement on long-term neurological, neuropsychological and psychiatric effects of low-level exposure to organophosphates in adults'](#) and the accompanying [lay summary](#).

In the light of the COT's conclusions, the MSP considered its future: since the introduction of improved delivery systems for OP sheep dips, the VMD had received very few suspected adverse event reports relating to OP sheep dips and those that had been received were historical.

The Panel unanimously agreed that there would be little value in its retention, and recommended that it should be wound up.

At our May meeting Professor David Coggon, COT Chair, gave a presentation on the above-mentioned COT [Statement](#).

We then considered and endorsed the MSP's recommendation that, in the light of the COT report, there would be little value in retaining the MSP. We advised the VMD accordingly and, after accepting our advice the VMD informed Ministers and the MSP was formally wound up on 31 July.

### **The UK Veterinary Antibiotic Resistance and Sales Surveillance Report**

We considered and commented upon the VMD's UK Veterinary Antibiotic Resistance and Sales Surveillance (UK-VARSS) Report

We expressed concern that the intramammary sales figures could misrepresent usage in the dairy industry. Officials explained that readers of the report needed to be aware that the data presented are sales data and not consumption data, and therefore a comment would be inserted into the report to re-iterate this and avoid misinterpretation.

We were given the opportunity to forward additional comments before the final report, which is now available on [GOV.UK](#), was approved for publication.

## The annual report of the Medical and Scientific Panel

### Introduction by the Chairman

We had not met since November 2012 but, following the publication of the COT final report on the Review of Epidemiological Literature on Organophosphates and Health Outcomes Relating to the Nervous System in April, we convened for what was to be our final meeting.

We reviewed the COT report and its conclusions and agreed that, in the light of those conclusions, we should recommend to the VPC that the MSP should be wound up.

I am grateful to the members for agreeing to meet at short notice after such a long break and for their advice, which the VPC duly accepted, resulting in the formal closure of the MSP on 31 July. I am convinced that our advice to the VPC was appropriate.

I would therefore join Bill in thanking all of the members for their support and I hope that they have enjoyed their time on the MSP as much as I.

**Dr Robert Jefferson,  
Chair,  
Medical and Scientific Panel**

### Who we are

We were established in 1994 at the recommendation of the VPC to evaluate and co-ordinate research on organophosphate (OP) sheep dips in relation to possible human exposure.

### Meetings

We usually meet two or three times a year but in November 2012 we agreed not to meet again until the final report of the COT's Review of Epidemiological Literature on Organophosphates and Health Outcomes Relating to the Nervous System had been published.

The COT's [Statement on long-term neurological, neuropsychological and psychiatric effects of low-level exposure to organophosphates in adults](#) and the accompanying [lay summary](#) was published in March. We met in April to consider its conclusions and, in the light of those conclusions, our future. In particular, we noted that since the introduction of improved delivery systems for OP sheep dips, the VMD had received very few suspected adverse event reports relating to OP sheep dips and those that had been received were historical. We were in complete agreement that there would be little value in retaining the MSP, and we recommended to the VPC that the Panel should be wound up.

Following our meeting the Chairman had asked the National Poisons Information Services for information on any reports it had received of diazinon poisoning. The response had included the research paper 'National toxicovigilance for pesticide exposures resulting in health care contact – An example from the UK's National Poisons Information Service'. We considered these additional papers and agreed that there was nothing therein that would cause us to reconsider our recommendation.



## Costs

As an independent scientific non-departmental public body we do not have our own resources, but are funded jointly by Defra and fees paid by the pharmaceutical industry to the VMD.

For each meeting we attend, we are entitled to claim a preparation fee of £76 and an attendance fee of £148 (the Chairman's fees are £94 and £185 respectively). Travel and subsistence is also payable within the Defra guidelines.

The cost of the VPC and the MSP in 2014 was £32,197.

A summary of the 2013 and 2014 costs is shown below:

	Regular Meetings held		Travel & subsistence		Preparation & attendance		Other costs		TOTAL	
	2013	2014	2013 £	2014 £	2013 £	2014 £	2013 £	2014 £	2013 £	2014 £
<b>VPC<sup>1</sup></b>	2	3	24,685	<b>15,405</b>	15,048	<b>13,956</b>	1,776	<b>910</b>	41,509	<b>30,271</b>
<b>MSP</b>	0	1	0	<b>975</b>	0	<b>951</b>	0	<b>0</b>	0	<b>1,926</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	2	4	24,685	<b>16,380</b>	15,048	<b>14,907</b>	1,776	<b>910</b>	41,509	<b>32,197</b>

<sup>1</sup> including the cost of the open meeting

## Transparency

To avoid any public concern that commercial interests might affect our advice, the arrangements which govern relationships between members and the pharmaceutical industry and information on significant and relevant interests are on public record at the request of ministers. The circumstances in which we should declare an interest in the pharmaceutical industry are provided in the Code of Practice for Members of the VPC and its Sub-Committees. The Code, and a summary of our interests for 2014, is available at Annex 3

## Contacts

### Administrative support

The VMD provides administrative support to the VPC and its sub-committee, the MSP. Contact details are:

**Committee and Office Support Team, VMD, Woodham Lane, New Haw, Addlestone, Surrey, KT15 3LS**

tel: 01932 336911

email: [vpc@vmd.defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:vpc@vmd.defra.gsi.gov.uk)

fax: 01932 336618

or

**Colin Bennett (VPC Secretary)**

Direct line: 01932 338490

email: [c.bennett@vmd.defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:c.bennett@vmd.defra.gsi.gov.uk)

### **Reporting a suspected adverse event involving a veterinary medicinal product**

If you would like to report a suspected adverse event involving a veterinary medicinal product, an interactive adverse event reporting form for completion and submission online is available on GOV.UK. Adverse event and environmental report forms can be downloaded from the same website. If you want further information please contact:

**Pharmacovigilance Unit, VMD, Woodham Lane, New Haw, Addlestone, Surrey, KT15 3LS**

tel: 01932 336911

email [postmaster@vmd.defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:postmaster@vmd.defra.gsi.gov.uk)

fax: 01932 336618

or

**Roy Savory**

Direct line: 01932 338427

email: [r.savory@vmd.defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:r.savory@vmd.defra.gsi.gov.uk)

### Terms of Reference

Our terms of reference are to:

- (i) provide the Secretary of State with scientific<sup>1</sup> advice on any aspect of veterinary medicinal products and specified feed additives;
- (ii) hear representations on decisions relating to the granting, refusal, variation, suspension or revocation of a marketing authorisation for a veterinary medicinal product or an animal test certificate;
- (iii) promote the collection of information relating to suspected adverse reactions for the purpose of enabling the advice at i) above to be given.

Each year the Veterinary Products Committee will publish a report of its activities and those of its sub-committees.

<sup>1</sup>Scientific advice means all aspects, including risk/benefit analysis, of the safety, quality and efficacy of a veterinary medicinal product apart from regulatory issues.

**Membership and biographical details****Professor Bill Reilly BSc (Hons), BVMS, DVSM, Hon FRCVS  
Chairman**

Bill Reilly qualified from Glasgow Veterinary School in 1970. He spent five years in farm animal veterinary practice before joining the State Veterinary Service. He was appointed as Consultant in Veterinary Public Health at the Scottish Centre for Infection and Environmental Health in 1989. He was subsequently appointed Assistant Director and then Deputy Director. He has been a visiting Professor at the University of Glasgow School of Veterinary Medicine since 1998 and has been actively involved in under and post graduate teaching. Professor Reilly was elected an Honorary Fellow of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons in 2002 and received the Chiron Award of The British Veterinary Association in 2006. He was recognised as an RCVS Specialist in Veterinary Public Health in 1992 and a Diplomate of the European College of Veterinary Public Health in 2001. He was elected a Fellow of the Faculty of Public Health Medicine in 2001. He retired from the Health Service in 2006 and joined the Board of the Food Standards Agency having previously been Chairman of the Advisory Committee on the Microbiological Safety of Food. Professor Reilly has been a member of many veterinary committees and he served as President of the British Veterinary Association in 2009- 2010.

**Mrs Nicola Ackerman BSc (Hons), RVN, Cert SAN A1, MBVNA  
Specialism: Veterinary Nursing**

Nicola Ackerman works at the Veterinary Hospital Group Ltd as the Senior Medical Nurse, and as one of the emergency night nurses since 2005, and has worked in the veterinary industry since 1994. Mrs Ackerman graduated from Hartpury College in 1999 with an Honours degree in Equine Science, specialising in animal nutrition, qualified as a VN in 2002 and has subsequently gained a post-graduation certificate in small and exotic animal nutrition. Her interests are in medical nursing, nutrition and emergency care; and she runs the nurse's clinic team. She is also the head clinical coach in practice and has gained her V1 award. Mrs Ackerman is part of the Pet Obesity Taskforce, and has written a book on animal nutrition for veterinary nurses and technicians, and consulting veterinary nurses. Mrs Ackerman holds the C-SQP qualification. Mrs Ackerman has declared no political interests.

**Mr Rory Bell MVB, DSAM, DECVIM-CA, MRCVS, FHEA  
Specialism: Veterinary surgeon (small animals)**

Rory Bell is a Senior Lecturer at the University of Glasgow School of Veterinary Medicine and was appointed Head of the small animal internal medicine service at the University of Glasgow Small Animal Hospital in 2009. He is also Chairperson of the Education Committee of the European College of Veterinary Internal Medicine. Mr Bell has declared no political activities.

**Professor Malcolm Bennett BVSc, PhD, MRCVS, FRCPath, FHEA  
Specialism: Virology**

Malcolm Bennett qualified as a veterinary surgeon from the University of Liverpool in 1983. He was appointed Professor of Veterinary Pathology at the University of Liverpool in 2001. His research interests and expertise include infectious diseases,

especially zoonoses and infections of companion animals and wildlife. Professor Bennett has declared no political activities.

**Dr Tanya Bleiker BMedSci (Hons), BM BS (Hons), FRCP**

**Specialism: Dermatology**

Tanya Bleiker graduated with honours from Nottingham University Medical School in 1992. Having completed her dermatology training in Leicester she was appointed as a consultant Dermatologist in Derby in February 2001. In 2004 she became a fellow of the Royal College of Physicians. She is a full time general Dermatologist with special interests in paediatric dermatology and cutaneous allergy, and is actively involved in under-graduate and post-graduate teaching, training and supervision. From 2010-13 she has been the Editor-in-chief of one of the top dermatology journals, the British Journal of Dermatology. In 2012 she became one of five editors of the international 'Rook's Textbook of Dermatology'. She has been an officer and an executive of the British Association of Dermatologists since 2010. Dr Bleiker has declared no political interests.

**Professor Clare Bryant BSc (Hons), PhD, BVetMed, CertVA, DipIECVPT**

**Specialism: Pharmacology**

Clare Bryant was appointed as a lecturer to the Department of Veterinary Medicine, the University of Cambridge, in 2004. Professor Bryant teaches Clinical Pharmacology to veterinary students and basic pharmacology to veterinary, medical and basic science undergraduates at the University of Cambridge. Her research interests are primarily focussed on elucidating the fundamental mechanisms of, and identifying novel therapeutic agents for, inflammatory and infectious diseases of animals and people. Professor Bryant has declared no political activities.

**Professor Francis Burke MBBS, FRCS**

**Specialism: Hand Surgery**

Francis Burke qualified in Newcastle in 1967. He was appointed a Consultant in hand surgery in Derby in July 1978 and visiting professor of hand surgery to the University of Derby in July 1996. His research interests have included high-pressure injection injuries arising in industry and from animal inoculation. Professor Burke has also been responsible for the care of infections of the hand arising from penetrating injuries and when causation has been occupational. In addition he is involved in medico-legal practice, assessing disability arising from injuries at work and causes where medical negligence is considered to have occurred in matters related to traumatic and elective hand surgery. Professor Burke has declared no political interests.

**Professor David Cavanagh, BSc, PhD, DSc**

**Specialism: Molecular Biology/Genetics**

Since graduating with a degree in microbiology in 1972, Professor Cavanagh has specialised in virology, having done research on foot-and-mouth disease virus, influenza virus, infectious bronchitis virus, astroviruses, avian encephalomyelitis virus, and avian metapneumovirus. Since 1979 he has been at the Pirbright Institute (formerly the Institute for Animal Health), firstly at the Houghton Poultry Research Station\Houghton Laboratory, specialising in poultry viruses, currently at Pirbright Laboratory, Surrey, where he is Outreach Programme Manager. Professor Cavanagh's areas of research are novel vaccine development, based on genetic

modification of the genomes of viruses, and epidemiology, based on gene sequencing and molecular detection techniques. He was Editor-in-Chief of the journal *Avian Pathology* from 1997 to 2009 and is now Assistant Editor-in-Chief, and is a Visiting Professor at the University of Liverpool. He acts as an independent expert on research grant assessment committees for the EC, and is a Trustee of the Houghton Trust. Professor Cavanagh has no declared political activities.

### **Mrs Margaret Chambers BSc, MSc, PGCE**

Specialism: Lay Member

Margaret Chambers joined the Physiology Department at the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, Edinburgh after graduating from Exeter University in 1966 (BSc Hons Zoology), and was awarded a Master of Science degree in 1969 for her work on cutaneous mechanoreceptors in the cat. After raising a family in rural Somerset, Mrs Chambers entered the teaching profession in 1985 and taught science in secondary schools from 1985 to 2008 having trained at Bristol University. As a Community Scientist she works with the Women's Institute, church groups and non-affiliated village groups and has designed and delivered programmes as diverse as 'Science for Mums' 1991-1993, Somerton Science Festival 1995-2001 and 'Energy Education for All' 2000-2004. Mrs Chambers has served as a school governor for twenty three years and is a member of the Annual Fund Disbursement Panel at Exeter University.

### **Professor Chris Collins BSc, PhD**

Specialism: Food Safety/Risk Assessment

Chris Collins is a Reader in Soil Science at the University of Reading. He has over 15 years experience of the fate and transport of pollutants in the soil-plant system and he has published over 40 refereed papers in this research area. Recent research has focused on investigating the interaction of organic pollutants with soils, e.g. the behaviour of sheep dips to recommend the best approach for their disposal undertaken for the Environment Agency. Professor Collins and colleagues also produced a framework for the risk assessment of chemicals so that the large number of models available could be used in a structured way across government for the Intergovernmental Group on the Risk to Health from Chemicals. He is a member of the BioAccessibility Research Group Europe, a network addressing directly the measurement of pollutant bioaccessibility and leads the NERC sponsored Soil Health Environment Network. Professor Collins has declared no political activities.

### **Ms Sally Harmer**

Specialism: Suitably Qualified person (Large Animal)

Sally Harmer works as the Animal Health Manager for Clynderwen and Cardiganshire Farmers (CCF Ltd) based in Pembrokeshire, Wales. Coming from a beef and sheep farming background Ms Harmer has worked in the manufacturing side of the Animal Health industry for nearly 20 years before switching to the retail side in 2010. As well as managing the Animal Health business side for the Co Op she spends a lot of time working with all types of farmer customers both on farm and in store. Training staff at all levels also is a key part of her role. In addition to her day to day role Ms Harmer sits on the Animal Health Group of United Farmers and is also a Welsh regional advisor for the Moredun Institute. Ms Harmer has declared no political activities.

**Dr Robert Jefferson BSc, MB BS, CMIOSH, FFOM**

Specialism: Clinical Toxicology

Robert Jefferson is a Consultant in Environmental Medicine and Deputy Director of the Medical Toxicology Research Centre in the University of Newcastle upon Tyne. He is one of the clinical leads for advice on chemical incidents in England & Wales through the Chemical Hazards and Poisons Division of the Health Protection Agency. He has extensive experience of occupational medicine, environmental medicine, toxicology and occupational health & safety. He gained a degree in Genetics before studying Medicine. He started his medical career as a partner in general practice in Northumberland before changing to become an accredited specialist in Occupational Medicine. He has also lived and worked in Japan as a research fellow at the Radiation Effects Research Foundation in both Hiroshima and Nagasaki. He is an Honorary Consultant Physician within the Newcastle Hospitals NHS Trust. He is an examiner for the Faculty of Occupational Medicine and is a member of the Faculty's ethics committee. He also sits on the Royal College of Physicians Committee on Ethics in Medicine. His research interests include human biomonitoring, CBRN events and low dose exposures to chemicals and radiation. Dr Jefferson has declared no political activities.

**Dr Elizabeth Kubiak BSc, MB BS, MRCPATH, LLM**

Specialism: Medical/clinical microbiology

Elizabeth Kubiak is Consultant Microbiologist and Infection Control Doctor (joint) in the Royal Gwent Hospital, Newport, South Wales. After qualifying in Medicine from the University of London in 1984, Dr Kubiak trained in Medical Microbiology and Virology in Bristol, London and the West Midlands before moving to Wales in 1994 to take up her current post. Dr Kubiak is an honorary Clinical Teacher to the Academic Department of Medical Microbiology in the University of Wales College of Medicine, and Educational Supervisor to the Specialist Microbiology Registrars on their rotation to Newport. She has examined for the Royal College of Pathologists, sat as a member of the Welsh Council of the College from 2005 to 2008, and is currently the Royal College regional reviewer of Consultant Medical Microbiologist Job Descriptions for Wales. Among her special interests she includes diagnosis and treatment of infections in Intensive Care patients, paediatric infections, serious eye infections, mycobacterial infections, and antimicrobial resistance and control. From 2003, Dr Kubiak studied part-time at Cardiff University for a Masters degree in Legal and Ethical Aspects of Medical Practice, which was awarded in 2006. Dr Kubiak currently serves on the Research Risk Review Committee and the Antimicrobial Working Group of the Aneurin Bevan Health Board. She is a member of the Microbiology Standing Specialist Advisory Group (MSSAG) to the Welsh Government and is the MSSAG representative to the Disinfection, Antimicrobial Resistance and Healthcare-associated Infection (DARHAI) committee. Dr Kubiak has a small flock of rare-breed poultry (Pekin bantams) for domestic egg production and two dogs, who are family pets. Dr Kubiak has declared no political interests.

**Mr Stephen Lister BSc, BVet Med, CertPMP, MRCVS**

Specialism: Veterinary Surgeon (Poultry)

Stephen Lister is a practising veterinary surgeon specialising in poultry medicine and production, involving a wide spectrum of avian species, including turkeys, chickens, ducks, geese and game birds. He is a Diplomat of the European College of Poultry

Veterinary Science and Senior Vice President of the Poultry Veterinary Study Group of the EU. Mr Lister has declared no political activities.

**Dr Tim Marrs OBE, MD, DSc, FRCP, FRCPath, FBTS, MRSC**

Specialism: Toxicology

Tim Marrs was formerly chief toxicologist at the Food Standards Agency in London, and before that Senior Medical Officer at the Department of Health. He is also consulting clinical toxicologist at the West Midlands Poisons Information Centre in Birmingham. He is a Fellow of the Royal College of Pathologists and the Royal College of Physicians of London. He has also been the editor of a number of books including General and Applied Toxicology, Organophosphates and Health, Pesticide Toxicology and International Regulation, Chemical Warfare Agents Toxicology and Treatment, and The Mammalian Toxicology of Insecticides. Currently a book entitled regulatory toxicology in the European Union is in preparation. He has written a number of papers on toxicology and allied subjects. He is now a consultant for Edentox Associates. He has served on an expert committee in Washington DC, organized by the International Life Science Institute; this was on developmental neurotoxicity. Dr Marrs has declared no political activities.

**Professor Jacqui Matthews BVMS, PhD, MRCVS**

Specialism: Parasitology

Jacqui Matthews is Chair of Veterinary Immunobiology at the University of Edinburgh and Moredun Research Institute. Her area of research is veterinary parasitology, specifically the development of vaccines against ruminant nematodes and the development of tools to detect anthelmintic resistance in nematodes of horses, cattle and sheep. She is a member of the World Association for the Advancement of Veterinary Parasitology (WAAVP) Committee for improved recommendations on the detection of anthelmintic resistance in horses. Professor Matthews has declared no political activities.

**Mr Robert Morris BSc, MRPharmS, MBA, Dip AgVet Pharm, Dip Marketing**

Specialism: Pharmacy

Robert Morris is a practising pharmacist and partner in a community pharmacy business in Northampton. Prior to this he spent over twenty years in the veterinary pharmaceuticals industry in marketing and business roles for Hoechst UK and Intervet UK. Having worked for two multinational organisations he has wide experience of products used in ruminants, companion animals, poultry and pigs. Since returning to community pharmacy practice, Mr Morris has become chairman of Northants Local Pharmaceutical Committee and is a member of the NHS Northamptonshire Clinical Cabinet – a committee of the PCT responsible for strategy and clinical engagement. He retains a very keen interest in the veterinary industry with his work for AMTRA, as a student assessor, and with his role on the Veterinary Pharmacy Group of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society where he is currently producing practice guidance information for community pharmacists. Mr Morris has declared no political activities.

**Mr Declan O'Rourke MVB DipM MBA FRCVS**

Specialism: Risk Analysis

Declan O'Rourke is a veterinary surgeon and works as an independent consultant in pharmacovigilance and livestock medicine. Following a couple of years in practice, in



England and Canada, he joined the Milk Marketing Board. Subsequently, he worked in the animal health industry where he held technical, marketing, product development, clinical development, production and pharmacovigilance roles. Mr O'Rourke was awarded a Fellowship of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (FRCVS) in 1990, he is a Council member of the British Cattle Veterinary Association and a Director of the British Veterinary Association. Mr O'Rourke has declared no political activities.

**Professor Andrew Peters BVetMed, BA, DVetMed, PhD, DSc, FRCVS, FIBiol, Dip ECAR**

Specialism: Veterinary Immunology

Andy Peters graduated from the Royal Veterinary College (RVC) London in 1972 and completed a PhD in animal physiology at the University of Nottingham in 1978. He has spent periods in general practice, academic research and the Meat & Livestock Commission. Between 1993 and 1998 he was Professor of Animal Health and Production at the RVC. He has spent two periods in the animal health industry as Regulatory Manager in Hoechst UK between 1989 and 1993 and as Head of European Vaccine Development in Pfizer Animal Health between 1998 and 2005, including a three-year period in the USA. He has published approximately 160 papers in animal reproduction, production animal science and vaccine studies. He is co-author of the textbook Reproduction in Cattle and editor of the reference text Vaccines for Veterinary Applications. He is Director of the consulting company Arpexas Ltd, specialising in vaccine development and knowledge transfer services. He is currently Assistant Principal International at Scotland's Rural College (SRUC), Edinburgh and has been a special professor at the University of Nottingham since 2001. He is a member of the Defra Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment (ACRE). Professor Peters has declared no political activities.

**Mr Andrew Prail BVSc, MRCVS**

Specialism: Veterinary Surgeon (Large Animal)

Andrew Prail worked in a multi-discipline veterinary practice for 36 years. Although involved clinically in all sectors, his main area of interest was in farm animals, especially cattle. A Past-President of the British Cattle Veterinary Association, Mr Prail is also active in other areas of the veterinary profession including a Directorship on the Board of the British Veterinary Association. He has previously been a Director for one of the UK veterinary wholesaling companies but now retains a position as Chairman of the Pensions Trustees for that company. He also acts in an advisory capacity for a company that is bringing an innovative on-farm diagnostic testing system to market. Mr Prail has declared no political activities.

**Professor Colin Robertson BA (Hons), MB.ChB, MRCP (UK), FRCSEd, FRCPE**

Specialism: Accident and Emergency Medicine

Colin Robertson has been a consultant at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh since 1986. His major clinical and research interests are in cardiac arrest and cardiopulmonary resuscitation, major trauma and pre-hospital care. He is a former Chair of the Resuscitation Council (UK), and ILCOR, and is the editor of The Cambridge Textbook of Accident and Emergency Medicine, the Oxford Handbook of Emergency Medicine and Macleod's Clinical Examination. Professor Robertson has declared no political interests.

**Mr Peter Scott MSc, BVSc, FRCVS**

Specialism: Veterinary Surgeon (fish)

Peter Scott is a practising veterinary surgeon working with a large proportion of the English and Welsh Aquaculture sector and is a Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons Recognised Specialist in Fish Health and Production. He obtained his MSc in Aquatic Veterinary Studies from Stirling University in 1978. He is currently President of the Fish Veterinary Society. His other major interest is in zoos, aquaria and exotic pets; he is a DEFRA Zoo Inspector and led the review of the Zoo Licensing Act and zoo standards in 2000. Mr Scott has interests in animal welfare and has served on the Companion Animal Welfare Council since it was created, was a member of the England Implementation Group and established the Companion Animal Sector Council. He has worked with animals in film and television and was a founder of PAWSI to establish training for trainers and establish animal welfare standards in the industry. He was awarded his FRCVS in 1997. Mr Scott established his own company developing and supplying a range of products including nutritional supplements, probiotics and Small Animal Exemption Scheme products in 1988, and he works closely with parts of the pet industry. Mr Scott has declared no political activities.

**Mr John Sherington MSc, BSc, CStat**

Specialism: Statistics

John Sherington is a Chartered Statistician who received an MSc in Biometry from the University of Reading in 1974. After more than 10 years working as an applied statistician for the Agricultural Institute in Dublin, he spent many years working in livestock and agricultural research in developing countries, including the International Livestock Centre for Africa in Ethiopia. He joined Pfizer Veterinary Medicine R&D in 1997 where he led the EU Biometrics Unit, working on statistical aspects of clinical trials and other studies for veterinary pharmaceuticals and vaccines. More recently he has worked supporting discovery and pre-clinical safety pharmacology and toxicology research. He has been a statistical reviewer for the Journal of Small Animal Practice and been a member of the Toxicology Special Interest Group of PSI (Statisticians in the Pharmaceutical Industry). Mr Sherington has declared no political activities.

**Mr Keith Siddorn BSc (Hons), JP**

Specialism: Working Farmer

Keith Siddorn farms on the edge of the Cheshire plain. He is the fourth generation of his family to farm at Meadow Bank, a traditional mixed farm of some 200 acres. Mr Siddorn produces 4,000 bacon pigs per year and has the largest and most diverse herd of Traditional Hereford cattle (classified as a rare breed). He also has a few laying hens and runs a small flock of Hebridian sheep (also classified as a rare breed). He also looks after other farmers' cattle and sheep and sells all his own produce through the farm shop. Mr Siddorn has declared no political activities.

### Declarations of Interest: A Code of Practice for Members of the VPC and its Sub-Committees

#### **Conflicts of Interest**

The Veterinary Products Committee's advice concerns matters which are connected with the pharmaceuticals industry and it is therefore desirable that members should have a good understanding of the work of the industry. It is also desirable that some members should have practical experience of the scientific problems of product development. The pharmaceuticals industry relies heavily on the advice of doctors, veterinarians and pharmacists outside the industry in, for example, the universities. To avoid any public concern that commercial interests might affect the Committee's advice, ministers have decided that the arrangements which govern relationships between members and the pharmaceuticals industry and information on significant and relevant interests should be on public record.

You will therefore comply with the following Code of Practice which describes the circumstances in which you should declare an interest in the pharmaceuticals industry.

In this Code of Practice 'pharmaceuticals industry' means:

companies, partnerships or individuals who are involved with the manufacture, sale or supply of veterinary medicinal products (including veterinary homoeopathic products)

trade associations representing companies involved with such products

companies, partnerships or individuals who are directly concerned with research, development or marketing of a veterinary medicinal product (including a veterinary homoeopathic product) which is being considered by the Committee.

References to 'the pharmaceuticals industry' include cases involving a single company.

In this Code of Practice 'the Secretariat' means the Secretariat of the Veterinary Products Committee.

#### **Different Types of Interest**

The following is intended as a guide to the kinds of interests which should be declared. If you are uncertain whether an interest should be declared you should consult the Secretariat or, if it concerns a particular product which is to be considered at a meeting, the Chairman at that meeting. If you have an interest not specified in these notes but which you believe could be regarded as influencing your advice you should declare it. However, you do not need to search out links between one company and another, for example where a company with which you are connected has an interest in a pharmaceutical company of which you are not aware and could not reasonably be expected to be aware.

### **Personal Interests**

A personal interest involves payment to you personally. The main examples are:

any consultancy, directorship, position in or work for the pharmaceutical industry, which attracts regular or occasional payments in cash or kind

any work commissioned by the pharmaceutical industry for which you are paid in cash or kind

any shareholding in or other beneficial interest in shares of the pharmaceutical industry but excluding shareholdings through unit trusts or similar arrangements where you have no influence on financial management.

### **Non-personal Interests**

A non-personal interest involves payment which benefits a department for which you are responsible, but you do not receive personally. The main examples are:

the holding of a fellowship endowed by the pharmaceutical industry

any payment, other support or sponsorship by the pharmaceutical industry which does not convey any pecuniary or material benefit to you personally but which does benefit your position or department e.g.

a grant from a company for the running of a unit or department for which you are responsible

a grant or fellowship or other payment to sponsor a post or a member of staff in the unit for which you are responsible but excluding financial assistance for students

the commissioning of research or other work by, or advice from, staff who work in a unit for which you are responsible.

You are under no obligation to seek out knowledge of work done for, or on behalf of, the pharmaceutical industry in departments for which you are responsible if you would not normally expect to be informed.

### **Additional Guidance for Members of the Medical and Scientific Panel**

Members of the Medical and Scientific Panel (MSP) are also required to comply with the following paragraphs, which were adopted in January 1997. In case of any conflict between the provisions of the following paragraphs and the paragraphs above, these shall apply.

At the next MSP meeting following the start of the involvement in question you should declare that you have become involved in court proceedings relating to human health aspects of exposure to organophosphorus (OP) sheep dips.

'Involvement' in court proceedings would include providing or agreeing to provide expert advice in connection with OP sheep dips to a party to existing or proposed court proceedings, and agreeing to appear as a witness in court in the case.

The requirement to make a declaration shall be subject to the general rules of medical confidentiality relating to particular individuals.

If the MSP is not due to meet within one month of the start of the involvement, you should inform the Chairman.

After declaring an interest you should declare at any future MSP meeting and, as appropriate, at any time to the Chairman, any changes in your involvement, such as whether agreement has been given to act as a witness following the giving of advice.

Much of the information considered by the MSP is considered to be 'commercially confidential' and should not be divulged to anyone outside the Committee. You are therefore required to keep confidential the Panel's discussions or proposed advice to the Veterinary Products Committee.

You may receive requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act (Fol), which presumes that requests will be granted. However, there are exemptions for specific types of information including commercial interests and trade secrets but, before an exemption can be enacted, a 'public interest' test must be applied.

This may create a conflict if you are involved in court proceedings in relation to the duty of disclosure to the court. In such cases, you should first consult the Chairman who should seek advice from the Secretariat with the objective of obtaining consent to disclose the information, deliberations or advice in question.

You should also declare any occasions when you have agreed to conduct research, in return for payment, connected with OP sheep dips.

If the circumstances arise in which, in the opinion of the Chairman, you should make a declaration not otherwise provided for by this code or the General Code of Practice in order to ensure the proper conduct of the MSP, the Chairman, may require you to make such a declaration, and he may then give directions in accordance with the Code.

## DECLARATION OF INTERESTS DURING THE MEETING AND IMPLICATIONS

NATURE OF INTEREST	DESCRIPTION	INVOLVEMENT IN DISCUSSION
<i>Personal Specific</i>	You have at any time worked on the product under consideration and have personally received payment for that work from the industry.	You should take no part in the proceedings as they relate to that product and would normally be asked to leave the room for the duration of the discussion.
<b>Lapsed Personal Specific</b>	As above but the interest is no longer current.	You can take part in proceedings.
<b>Personal non-specific</b>	Current personal interest in the pharmaceutical company concerned which does not relate specifically to the product under discussion.	You should take no part in the proceedings as they relate to that product, except at the Chairman's discretion to answer questions from other members.
<b>Current Personal</b>	Either in the pharmaceutical company concerned which does not relate specifically to the product under discussion <b>or</b> in a company marketing a rival product.	You should take no part in the proceedings as they relate to that product, except at the Chairman's discretion to answer questions from other members.
<b>Non-Personal Specific</b>	You are aware that the department for which you are responsible has at any time worked on the product under discussion.	You may take part in the proceedings unless you have personal knowledge of the product through your own work or the supervision of others in which case, you should take no part in the proceedings as they relate to that product, except at the Chairman's discretion to answer questions from other members.
<b>Non-Personal, Non-Specific</b>	You are aware that the department for which you are responsible is currently receiving payment from the company which does not relate to the product under discussion.	You may take part in the proceedings unless the Chairman rules otherwise.

## Declaration of interests in the pharmaceutical industry

### VETERINARY PRODUCTS COMMITTEE

Name	Personal Interests			Non-Personal Interests		
	Name of Company	Nature of interest	Current	Name of Company	Nature of interest	Current
Prof Bill Reilly	None			None		
Mrs Nicola Ackerman	None			None		
Rory Bell	None			None		
Prof Malcolm Bennett	None			None		
Dr Tanya Bleiker	None			Leo Pharmaceuticals	Sponsors GP educational events	Yes
Prof Clare Bryant	None			Astra-Zeneca	Grant support for research	Yes
				GSK	Grant support for research	Yes
				Zoetis	Grant support for research	Yes
Prof Frank Burke	None			None		
Prof Dave Cavanagh	None			None		
Mrs Margaret Chambers	None			None		
Prof Christopher Collins	None			None		
Ms Sally Harmer	None			None		

Dr Robert Jefferson	None			None		
Dr Elizabeth Kubiak	None			None		
Mr Stephen Lister	Elanco Animal Health	Consultancy	Yes	None		
Dr Tim Marrs	AstraZeneca	Shareholding	Yes	None		
	GSK	Shareholding	Yes			
Prof Jacqui Matthews	WormVax UK	Non-executive director (unpaid)	Yes	Benchmark Vaccines Ltd	Research funding	Yes
				Zoetis	Research funding for PhD	Yes
Mr Robert Morris	NHA Pharmacy	Shareholder	Yes	None		
	Roma Pharmacy Ltd	Company Secretary, Shareholding & Salary	Yes			
	Veterinary Pharmacy Forum	Chair/Member	Yes			
Mr Declan O'Rourke	Alpharma Belgium BVBA	Consultancy	No	None		
	Animedica Group GmbH	Consultancy	No			
	Bayer Animal Health GmbH	Consultancy	No			
	Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica	Consultancy	No			
	Dechra Pharmaceuticals PLC	Consultancy	No			
	Eli Lilly & Company Ltd	Consultancy	Yes			
	Forum Products Ltd	Consultancy	Yes			
	Greer Laboratories Inc	Consultancy	Yes			



	Intervet UK Ltd	Consultancy	No			
	Janssen Pharmaceutica nv	Consultancy	No			
	Luitpold Pharmaceuticals, Inc	Consultancy	Yes			
	Merial SAS	Consultancy	No			
	Nimrod Veterinary Products Ltd	Consultancy	Yes			
	Pfizer	Consultancy (products up to Oct 2006)	No			
	Pfizer inc	Shares	Yes			
	Tairgi Tread Lia Baile Na Sceilge Teo (BVP)	Consultancy	Yes			
	Vetoquinol S.A.	Consultancy	No			
	Warburton Technology Ltd	Consultancy	Yes			
Prof Andrew Peters	Kindred Bio	Consultancy - paid	Yes	None		
	Biofabri	Consultancy - paid	Yes			
	Particle Therapeutics	Consultancy - paid	Yes			
	Pfizer Inc	Shares, pension	Yes			
Mr Andrew Prail	Centaur Services Ltd	Chair of Pensions Trustees	Yes	Boehringer-Ingelheim	Spouse is employee	Yes
Prof Colin Robertson	None			None		
Mr Peter Scott	Dechra	Shareholding	Yes	None		
	Glaxo	Shareholding	Yes			

	Shire	Shareholding	Yes			
	Vetark Professional	Major shareholder and Director	Yes			
Mr John Sherington	Pfizer	Shares/share options & Pension	Yes	None		
	Ridgeway Research	Consultancy/Fee paid work	Yes			
	Norbrook Laboratories	Consultancy/Fee paid work	Yes			
	GALVMed	Consultancy/Fee paid work	Yes			
Mr Keith Siddorn	None			None		