Veterinary Medicines Directorate

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Annual Report & Accounts

2019/20

THE VETERINARY MEDICINES DIRECTORATE IS AN EXECUTIVE AGENCY OF THE DEPARTMENT FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOOD & RURAL AFFAIRS

HC 603

Veterinary Medicines Directorate

An Executive Agency of the
Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs

Annual Report and Accounts

2019/20

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Overview

Chief Executive’s Statement

The Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) is the UK regulator of veterinary medicines and policy adviser on this to ministers. We facilitate wide availability of safe and effective medicines for prevention and treatment of diseases and improved welfare in all animal species. In doing so we ensure that this is not at the expense of human health or the environment. Veterinary medicines are important to ensure a viable livestock and fish-farming industry and healthy lives for companion and working animals. We deal with all applications for a Marketing Authorisation for veterinary medicines to specified timelines, and when necessary urgency of need. We seek to ensure compliance with the regulatory framework by providing guidance and advice.

Where necessary, we take formal action against the illegal supply of veterinary medicines in order to protect human and animal health. We continue to seek opportunities to reduce regulatory burden and to improve our operational efficiency.

The VMD had a very successful year, delivering the Business Plan with in-year savings, while maintaining services independently assessed as excellent, and maintaining a high staff engagement index. We have retained whole business ISO 9001:2015 certification, and ISO 27001:2013 for Information Security Management Systems.

Throughout the year we have been preparing for exit from the EU and the following transition period to ensure smooth continuation of medicines availability and over-sight at the point of EU Exit, and opportunities that arise from exit. We have also undertaken extensive engagement with stakeholders.

The VMD leads activity across government on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in animal health. We continued to work closely with the veterinary profession, livestock industry and other stakeholders across the public and private sectors to implement the government’s 2019-2024 AMR strategy (20-year vision on AMR and the 5-year action plan). Our collaborative approach has been a key factor in achieving a 40% reduction in the use of antibiotics in agriculture. As part of the UK’s global leadership on AMR, we delivered through the VMD hosted Food and Agriculture Organisation AMR reference centre, training in six low and middle income countries, contributing to the Governments support of the Sustainable Development Goals. At the end of this business year we had the impact of the coronavirus 19 pandemic. In response to Government advice to work from home we were able in four days to switch to become a fully virtual agency.

About the Veterinary Medicines Directorate

Purpose
The VMD is the UK competent authority for veterinary medicines regulation. We seek to ensure maximum availability of safe and effective medicines for prevention and treatment of diseases and improved welfare in all animal species. We also ensure that the medicines pose minimal possible risk to human health and the environment. The breadth of our functions in support of our purpose are presented below.

The Overview section of this report summarises our organisation, objectives, key risks to the achievement of our objectives, and how we have performed during the year.

We are responsible for:
Government:

- servicing, developing and implementing government policy and legislation on veterinary medicines
- supporting Ministers through briefing and advice on correspondence and Parliamentary Questions
- collaborating with government departments and agencies, and stakeholder groups
- working internationally
- enforcement of the Veterinary Medicines Regulations
- commissioning veterinary medicines related Research and Development (R&D)
- leading on antibiotic use and on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) surveillance
- improving medicines regulation capability in low and middle income countries

Veterinary pharmaceutical industry:

- assessing, issuing and maintaining all national Marketing Authorisation (MA) applications in accordance with legislation
- post-authorisation surveillance (pharmacovigilance) through the collation of suspected adverse event reports
- licensing and/or inspection of manufacturers, wholesale dealers and retailers of veterinary medicines

Food industry:
Manage the programme for the surveillance of residues of veterinary medicines and banned substances in home-produced livestock and animal products, reporting of results and co-ordinating follow-up action

Future developments, performance and risk
Our key challenges throughout 2019/20 and our plans for meeting them have been outlined in the VMD's Business Priorities which are available on www.gov.uk.

Key future developments and/or risks are the:

- UK's exit from the EU
- economic climate affecting the veterinary pharmaceutical industry and the

number of authorisation applications the VMD receives

- developing new international alliances on medicines regulation
- implementation of the new UK strategy on antimicrobial resistance
- continue broadening externally funded outreach work on developing medicines regulation and antimicrobial resistance control capability
- building our role and reputation as a training provider on all aspects of VMP regulation
- revision of the veterinary medicines regulations

Our approach to managing the principal risks is described in the Governance Statement in this report.

Operating framework
We operate within an overall policy and financial framework determined by the Secretary of State for Defra, through the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Rural Affairs and Biosecurity. More information on our governance is set out in our Framework Document.

Going concern
The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis. In common with other agencies in the Defra Group, the future financing of the VMD's liabilities is to be met by future supply of Grant in Aid and the application of future income from fees and charges, both approved annually by Parliament. Approval for the amount required for 2020/21 has already been given and there is no reason to believe that future approvals will not be forthcoming. Furthermore, the VMD leads activity across government on AMR in animal health, the UK government have committed to maintaining funding to implement the 2019-2024 AMR strategy and the 5 year action plan, all confirming multi-year projects which confirms the VMD functions are necessary and should continue to be delivered and that the VMD is best placed to carry out these functions.

Performance Summary

In 2019/20 the VMD delivered regulatory services to the veterinary pharmaceutical industry (VPI) to a total cost of £6.5m, these costs for authorisations and inspections work are fully recovered through fees and charges to this industry. The costs of regulation of the food industry £3.8m, are recovered through charges levied on abattoirs and other food processors. Through these fees we achieved full cost recovery.

We thoroughly monitor our financial performance and continue to seek efficiency while maintaining our standards of performance. We managed to achieve our 2019/20 targets, while maintaining our fees at or below the rates set in the VMR 2013 applicable to the veterinary pharmaceutical industry or SI No: 2945 applicable to the food industry charges.

The VMD also delivered a core programme of work for Defra customers. Activities include policy, enforcement and management of the Research and Development and AMR programmes. The VMD receive parliamentary funding for this work through Defra to an agreed budget. The approved budget for these activities was set at £3.73m, of which £3.67m was utilised, inclusive of non-cash and notional recharges.

Additional parliamentary funding was made available for the 2019/20 year as we have continued preparing for EU Exit, to ensure smooth continuation of medicines availability and over-sight at the point of EU Exit and to explore the opportunities that arise from exit. Resources to support EU Exit work were £8.84m, including £2.87m capital investment, for the repatriation of IT systems to replace those we no longer have access to.

Our total operating expenditure for the financial year was £20.83m.

Cash flow
Cash and cash equivalents have increased to £3.89m as at 31 March 2020 from £1.91m as at 31 March 2019, an increase of £1.98m. In year, the VMD's net cash draw down was £9.30m. The net cash requirement under the gross control funding arrangement was £7.32m.

We aim to follow and support the principles of the Better Payment Practice Code in compliance with the Public Sector Payment Policy to pay 80% of undisputed invoices within five working days. During the year we paid all undisputed invoices within five working days.

Business priorities and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

Our Business Plan provided a framework of deliverables and KPIs through which we provide the best possible service to all our customers. We successfully delivered against this plan.

Performance Analysis

About the performance analysis
This report outlines our performance against our priorities for the financial year from 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020. It gives examples of how we are achieving our aims and highlights important events from the year. It follows the structure of our Business Plan for 2019/20 to show how we are meeting our objectives.

The Defra Strategy
A clear, shared framework is provided to staff across the whole group of Defra organisations (including non-ministerial departments, executive agencies, non-departmental and other public bodies) in Defra's Single Departmental Plan. Actions to achieve Defra's strategic objectives are described in detail in the plan.

Our performance
We successfully delivered against our Business Plan, with the exception of the KPI for the Licensing electronic form the details of which are given against our business priorities below.

Business Priority 1 – Policy

A) Policy lead on behalf of Defra for veterinary medicines and AMR

Why are we doing this? We have overall responsibility in the UK for veterinary medicines policy, and animal health aspects of antimicrobial resistance in England, in the broader context of Defra's Animal Health and welfare responsibilities and the contribution this makes to safeguarding public health.

Key performance indicators:	KPI Met
1. Draft impact assessment and draft consultation document for revisions to the Veterinary Medicines Regulations completed by quarter four	✓
2.1 Milestones and deliverables relevant to the VMD in the UK 5-year AMR action plan achieved	✓
2.2 Annual report on antibiotic sales and antibacterial susceptibility data published by quarter three	✓
2.3 International AMR reference centre launched quarter one and annual programme delivered quarter four	✓

1. A draft consultation document covering the proposed changes to the VMR with regard to "Business As Usual", EU Exit and fees (structure), following the structure of the VMR, was produced in Q4. This includes a summary of the outcomes of the internal consultation with policy area owners in the VMD. We have also started informal consultations with external stakeholders, such as the UK veterinary pharmaceutical industry trade body (NOAH).

At the same time a draft Regulatory Triage Assessment document was produced, in consultation with Defra economists. This includes the revised fees (structure).

These documents will be used during the official consultation with stakeholders on the revision of the VMR, planned for Q2 2020.

In Q4, the Medicines and Medical Devices Bill (MMD) was introduced to Parliament. The MMD Bill will provide the powers needed to update the legislative framework for veterinary medicines and medicated feeds now that the European Communities Act 1972 has been repealed."

2.1 As part of the UK's international advocacy on AMR, the UK continued to be an active participant in the Codex Alimentarius Task Force on AMR. We co-chaired the working group on the Code of Practice on AMR and helped broker consensus to allow the draft text to make progress through the Codex towards its eventual adoption.

Working alongside the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas) and the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA), we delivered a number of capacity-building projects on AMR in Ethiopia, Nigeria, Laos, Ghana, Philippines and Bangladesh, under the aegis of the UK's FAO reference centre on AMR.

We developed a scheme for the monitoring of AMR in veterinary pathogens, to be fully implemented during 2020/21.

2.2 The UK Veterinary Antibiotic Resistance and Sales Surveillance (UK-VARSS) 2018 report was published on schedule in October 2019, and reported a further drop in UK antibiotic sales to an all-time low of 30 mg/kg and a decline in resistance in indicator E. coli to the majority of antibiotics coinciding with a reduction in antibiotic use in broilers.

2.3 International AMR reference centre launched quarter one.

The AMR Reference Centre received formal FAO designation in April 2019 (the UK was the first country in the world to receive this designation). A joint initiative with Cefas and APHA, the VMD specific reference centre activities throughout the year have included in-country support on Antimicrobial Usage in Ghana; training on antibiotic residues testing in Laos and the Philippines; veterinary medicines (including antibiotics) training in Ethiopia; and managing a workshop to deliver the Nigerian residues national action plan.

B) Preparing for EU Exit

Why are we doing this? We need to ensure that animal medicines availability in the UK is not compromised and that the UK remains attractive to the pharmaceutical industry for marketing authorisations application and complying with all post authorisation regulations.

Key performance indicators:	KPI Met
1. Ensure day 1 readiness project completed to minimum operating capacity	✓
2.1 Ensure New Special Import Scheme Service ready quarter three	✓
2.2 Deliver 60% of core reusable foundation blocks to enable delivery of future internal/external applications and services quarter three	✓
2.3 Ensure Licensing Electronic Forms are ready quarter four	✗
3. Ensure 25% increase in those signing up for email alerts as a result of the VMD's EU Exit Information Hub on GOV.UK	✓
4. Become a member (full or observer status) of one non-EU international body quarter four	✓

1. On 31 January 2020, the UK left the EU and our day 1 readiness project was completed. This included relevant Statutory Instruments, guidance to stakeholders, updated internal processes, robust contingency plans and provision of replacement IT services to a minimum operating capability.

2.1 Special Import Scheme Service updated and released on 7 October 2019.

2.2 We have set up a flexible cloud hosted IT platform on which we will deliver the enhanced EU Exit IT services and all future internal and external IT services.

2.3 Electronic Application Forms were functionally ready to enter Private Beta on 1 April 2020 and expected to be live in Q2.

3. 39% increase in email alert sign up achieved during 2019/20 Financial Year, exceeding KPI.

4. We submitted and followed up our application to be a Steering Committee member of International Cooperation on Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Registration of Veterinary Medicinal Products (VICH). The outcome was postponed pending clarification of the final terms of EU Exit discussions, but it was indicated that there was no major objection in principle.

Business Priority 2 – Delivery

A) Facilitate optimal availability and safe use of veterinary medicines

Why are we doing this? Our authorisation work creates an environment that provides confidence and investment within the medicines industry and enables exports. It protects the food chain, human and animal health as well as the environment. It also ensures that unsafe medicines can be identified and appropriate corrective action taken including, where appropriate, removal from the market.

Key performance indicators:	KPI Met
1 – 3 Monthly reporting against all Published Standards which set out the timelines and performance indicators for a range of key functions*. Overall performance against published standards to be at or above the effective level (≥92% of performance indicators met)	✓
4. Report pharmacovigilance findings to the Veterinary Products Committee and publish findings	✓
5. Respond to ‘high risk’ product defect reports within five working days; and all others within 10 working days	✓

*Performance indicators for the main types of marketing authorisation application work, some inspection work, the recording and assessment of pharmacovigilance data, and the publication of summary of product characteristics (SPC) and public assessment reports.

1 3 The expectations for the VMD’s performance (time and quality) in terms of handling applications, inspections and pharmacovigilance matters are set out in the published standards. Of 22 individual performance parameters, where 12 or more applications were received, all 22 met the ‘excellent’ performance standard resulting in an overall performance against published standards of 100%, so meeting the criteria defined as excellent. The independent Veterinary Products Committee (VPC) rated the quality of the VMD initial assessments for Marketing Authorisation applications as level 1, the highest level, confirming that the VMD properly identified potentially serious risks to human and animal health and the environment and that questions were comprehensive, clear and justified.

4. Performance against the published standards for pharmacovigilance have been maintained above the effective level. Pharmacovigilance findings have been reported to the Veterinary Products Committee every four months. All changes to products resulting from pharmacovigilance have been published in the monthly updates provided in the Veterinary Record and in the annual review published on gov.uk.

5. All ‘high risk’ product defect reports have been responded to within five working days and all others within 10 working days. Of the 55 product defect reports received, three were considered as high risk.

B) Surveillance, research and enforcement activities that influence the responsible, safe and effective use of veterinary medicines

Why are we doing this? To detect unsafe products or activities and to take corrective action so ensuring confidence in veterinary medicines, assist competitiveness, aid consumer confidence, assist with safety and help to ensure medicines, in particular antibiotics, are used responsibly to maintain effectiveness.

Key performance indicators:	KPI Met
1.1 Residues surveillance plan for 2019 delivered and results published quarter four	✓
1.2 Publish summary results on a two-monthly basis	✓
1.3 Residues surveillance programme for 2020 agreed quarter three	✓
2. Complete formal review of the procurement process for R&D projects and report by end quarter two	✓
3. Publish summary data of VMR breaches including cases handled, internet listings removed, enforcement notices served, and outcomes of successful prosecutions on a quarterly basis in the Enforcement Newsletter and (Marketing Authorisation Veterinary Information Service (MAVIS) (newsletter for industry)	✓
4. Establish effective regulatory relationships with at least one other major e-commerce marketplace	✓

1.1 Work went as planned for this residues target and success is shown by the continuing low number of non-compliant residue samples and no trends detected or reports received that required immediate action.'

1.2 Summary reports were published bi-monthly.

1.3 The surveillance plan for 2020 was agreed on schedule and sampling commenced at the beginning of the year.

2. A review of the R&D programme, including consideration of the procurement and commissioning processes, governance/approval procedures, publications and publicising the programme, and evaluating the success of the programme, was undertaken and reported. Actions from this review are to be implemented 2020-21.

3. The Enforcement Newsletter is published quarterly and is circulated widely to our enforcement stakeholders and partners. The newsletter focusses on particular issues relevant to veterinary medicines. As well as giving a summary of cases handled and internet listings removed, it also provides a link at www.gov.uk to the enforcement notices published, prosecutions taken and Police Cautions issued.

4. We actively set out to increase the number of enforcement partners we regularly work with. This enabled us to deal more effectively with the illegal marketing, sale and administration of veterinary medicines, and to deliver successful enforcement outcomes benefitting the business and citizens. We have specifically targeted Border Force as a partner to re-engage with in order to strengthen our future working relationship.

Our focus on tackling the illegal marketing and sale of veterinary medicines led to us establish a good working relationship with Facebook, Amazon and eBay. We now have in place procedures to facilitate the removal of illegal veterinary medicines listings, along with the illegal advertising of veterinary products. We have now established a stronger working relationship with Nominet, who manage the .uk domain name register, giving us the ability to take down offending websites.

C) To support and influence the development of the regulation of veterinary medicines outside of the EU in low and middle income countries and the international convergence of regulation processes

Why are we doing this? There is increasing international recognition of the importance of regulation of veterinary medicines driven by a combination of interest in stewardship and appropriate use of antibiotics and development of livestock business for low and middle-income countries. UK international action is expected for both AMR and Sustainable Development Goals. Our capability to support these initiatives is increasingly recognised at the global level, non-government funding is available to be accessed, and increasing influence outside of the borders of the EU supports EU-exit objectives.

Key performance indicators	KPI Met
1.1 To secure at least one externally funded capacity building contract	✓
1.2 To provide at least one on-site training event to a third country with full cost-recovery	✓
2. Secure at least one regulatory convergence agreement with a non-EU country	✓
3. Completion of project covering medicines regulation in sub-Saharan Africa	✓

1.1 We continued to be part of the successful tender by the Spanish Association for Standardisation and Certification (AENOR) consortium for the organisation and implementation of training activities on prevention, monitoring and control of antimicrobial resistance for non-EU countries. This was in the context of an overall ‘One Health’ approach under the Better Training for Safer Food initiative.

With World Bank funding, the VMD delivered technical training on analytical methods development, and application for quality assurance and residue surveillance as well as the quality management aspects, in order to improve veterinary medicines regulations in Ethiopia.

1.2 Regulators from two countries received on-site training over the year. Two Saudi Food and Drug Administration officials received bioequivalence training and three officials from the Botswana Medicines Regulatory Authority received training on pharmaceutical and biological dossier evaluation.

2. Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) were finalised with the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority and the Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines, Assurance Directorate of New Zealand. MoU with the Canadian Veterinary Drugs Directorate is currently in the final stages of discussion.

3. We completed the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation funded review of the regulatory landscape in Sub-Saharan Africa. This provided a strategy for improvements in veterinary medicines capability.

Business Priority 3 – Customer and interest groups

A) To ensure that the regulatory services provided by the VMD are seen as effective and efficient by those we regulate and stakeholders

Why are we doing this? To prepare for the UK's exit from the EU and to continually improve the service we provide to our stakeholders. This helps retain a critical mass of specialists and helps the sustainability of the operation, and offers opportunities for better value for money, whilst at the same time providing the ability to identify additional services. It also supports earning of foreign income.

Key performance indicators:	KPI Met
1. The overall median score from feedback surveys for individual VMD company meetings to be at least good for 90% or more of the meetings, and for inspections a minimum average score of 4 out of 5	✓
2. Less than 5 complaints upheld about the service VMD provides	✓

1. We achieved our objective with the overall median score from feedback surveys for individual VMD company meetings to be at least good for 90% or more. All companies who submitted a return rated the VMD as at least good. Out of a score of 5 the usefulness of the VMD advice was rated on average at 4.4.

For inspections, we achieved our objective with 175 feedback forms being received with an average score of 4.87 (out of 5).

2. No complaints were upheld against the VMD.

B) Provision of appropriate services to policy customers in Defra, other government departments and the Devolved Administrations

Why are we doing this? To ensure the services provided meet policy customer needs in a cost efficient way to support animal, public and wider environmental health, and economic growth.

Key performance indicators:	KPI Met
1. Carry out the annual survey of policy customers in Quarter 1 and the median overall score to be at least 'good'	✓

1. During April 2020 we carried out a survey of colleagues in government that use the VMD's policy services or with whom we work to make and deliver policy. We hold the survey each year to complement the regular in-year assessment of the delivery of specific policy areas. Our survey covered services provided by the VMD's Antimicrobial Resistance, Legislation, Residues and 'EU Exit' Teams. We asked two questions about the service we provided in 2019/20 based on Defra's formal approach to policy making.

With a rating system from ‘1 = unacceptable service: radical overhaul required’ through to ‘5 = excellent service: no changes required’.

Overall, 79% of responses rated the quality of the policy the VMD provided as ‘excellent: no changes required’ with 21% rating us as ‘good’. 71% of responses rated the way the VMD provided policy services as ‘excellent’. On the specific comments-based question “On the basis of your scores what changes do the VMD need to make”, we received positive, confirmatory comments.

We will use these results over the coming year to improve the way we make and deliver policy.

C) Communications, engagement and data provision to customers and interest groups

Why are we doing this? To raise awareness of the work of the VMD and why it is important that veterinary medicines are properly regulated and used. To enable effective feedback on our work. To enable maximum utilisation of VMD datasets.

Key performance indicators	KPI Met
1.1 90% of feedback forms from Company meetings, Open Days and visits to the VMD’s exhibition stand give the VMD a positive rating	✓
1.2 Less than 10 negative feedback comments received on the accuracy and completeness of VMD’s GOV.UK material	✓
2. Access to information requests: at least 95% cases responded to on time	✓
3. Maintain and review datasets published on [data.gov.uk.](data.gov.uk) Continue to publish VMD datasets	✓

1.1 We met this target receiving 90% of positive feedback forms from a range of stakeholder groups in respect of the series of events we attended.

1.2 Two accuracy issues on GOV.UK content pages were investigated and resolved.

2. We received 60 Access to information requests, all of which were responded to on time.

3. Data sets continue to be routinely published.

Business Priority 4 – Value for money

A) Achieve cost recovery and delivery of Value for Money

Why are we doing this? To ensure that we can demonstrate to all customers how we achieve best value for money. To ensure an appropriate regulatory framework is in place that supports growth whilst providing appropriate safeguards to protect the food chain, human and animal health and the environment.

Key performance indicators:	KPI Met
1. Cost recovery for charged for regulatory services to be within the range 100 -102% of full cost recovery	✓
2. To have identified further reductions in regulatory burden	✓
3. Policy work within budget	✓
4. Ensure that EU Exit budget is managed effectively to ensure EU Exit preparedness	✓

1. We recovered all our costs (including a Cost of Capital charge) from the provision of services to industry. Additional analysis of the fees and charges to industry is provided within the Parliamentary Accountability and Audit Report section.

2. Reductions to regulatory burden were identified and implemented.

3. Policy funded work in the VMD was on budget, including the in-year savings requirement being met.

4. We were within the EU Exit budget, whilst being flexible to accommodate changes to the requirements through the year and prepared for Exit.

Business Priority 5 – Capacity and capability

A) To ensure funding streams are used efficiently to maintain capability and capacity to deliver business objectives

Why are we doing this? To enable the VMD to deliver our business objectives by maintaining staffing and other support structures at a level that ensures the business is fit for purpose as it enters the period of transition before and beyond the UK’s exit from the EU. Through risk management we aim to identify and respond to issues that could adversely affect the business. We seek continuous improvement to enable us to meet current and future business needs and to ensure we remain competitive alongside other National Competent Authorities.

Key performance indicators:	KPI Met
1. Positive Internal/External Audit opinion on effectiveness of financial controls to be “moderate” or better	✓
2.1 Delivery of 90% of targets set out in the IT strategy	✓
2.2 To achieve at least 95% uptime for VMD’s IT systems	✓
3. No serious risks on risk register materialise	✓

4. To achieve business re-certification against ISO 9001:2015 by end quarter three 2019	✓
5.1 Maintain a top quartile staff engagement score in the 2019 Civil Service People Survey	✓
5.2 Training days per full-time equivalent to be at least 5 days per year	✓
5.3 Sickness absence – to maintain in 2019/20 the low number of days lost per full-time equivalent for short-term sickness and to perform well compared to Defra and wider public sector benchmarks for equivalent periods	✓
5.4 Leadership training – Participate and disseminate learning from the Food Farming and Biosecurity FIT group on leadership	✓
6. Agreement on product to be delivered by end quarter one. Draft capability gap-analysis by end quarter three. Final agreed gap-analysis by end quarter four	✓

1. Government Internal Audit Agency (GIAA) gave us a Moderate rating. The external Auditors reported an unqualified opinion.

2.1 90% of prioritised targets delivered. Some highlights include: Migration to Microsoft Office 365 and new @vmd.gov.uk email accounts, enhancement of IT services required for EU Exit, setup of cloud hosted infrastructure upon which future IT services will be delivered.

2.2 98% uptime achieved for VMD IT systems.

3 No serious risks on risk register materialised.

4. In September 2019 our independent external auditor, SGS recertified the VMD to ISO 9001 (Quality Management) and ISO 27001 (Information Security) standards confirming that its systems and processes met these internationally recognised standards.

5.1 Our CSPS engagement index score (the survey's measure of those areas that most shape our experiences at work) is 65% (64% last year). It put us in a group in 14th place out of 106 organisations.

5.2 The average training days attended per FTE for 2019/20 at the VMD is 7.91.

5.3 3.1 days were lost to sick absence per FTE for 2019/20 at the VMD which is down from 4.2 days lost for 2018/19.

5.4 We disseminated this learning as part of our wider 'leadership' training as set out in our annual Training and Development Strategy plan. We also promoted a 'Be Brave' initiative. 'Be Brave' is a way of thinking, acting and treating other people to help promote inclusion and create a great place to work.

6. In a changing and uncertain environment, we undertook preparatory work towards a strategic skills review to ensure we are best equipped for future work as medicines development evolves, drawing on the VMD's renewed science strategy, and our annual Training and Development Strategy planning activities.

Social and Community Issues and Environmental Matters

Social and community issues

Defra launched its Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy in January 2017 covering the period 2017 to 2020. The aim of the strategy is to ensure Defra group, which includes the VMD, is a great place to work and to deliver our aspirations to be an organisation with a diverse, open and inclusive culture.

The Strategy's four themes of: respect; include; support; and engage, incorporate our strategic priorities which include: promoting inclusive behaviours; tackling discrimination, bullying and harassment, and improving career support.

All our staff are required to complete training on:

- unconscious bias
- health and safety awareness
- disability awareness
- equality and diversity essentials
- counter fraud, bribery and corruption

All our assessments of Marketing Authorisations include an environmental impact assessment to ensure that the use and disposal of veterinary medicines do not adversely affect the environment.

Environmental matters: sustainability report for 2019/20

For more information please see Defra's Annual Report and Accounts – section headed: "Commentary on Sustainable Performance", which covers the VMD.

Under the Greening Government Commitments we have a commitment to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions, the amount of waste we generate and our water consumption. Defra's Built Environment Sustainability Team (BEST) provides us with quarterly figures on each of the following categories.

In previous reports these figures were provided on a calendar year basis. To align this data to the reporting year we have restated the 2017/18 figures for comparison.

Sustainability Data		**2019/20**	**2018/19**	**Restated 2017/18**
Non-Financial Indicators (tonnes CO^2)	Total gross emissions	164.5	174.5	180.6
	gross emissions: Scope 1	74.6	67.9	67.7
	gross emissions: Scope 2	75	85.3	101.7
	gross emissions: Scope 3	14.9	21.3	11.2
Non-Financial Indicators (tonnes)	Total Waste - incinerated with energy recovery	8.0	9.8	10.1
Related Energy Consumption (1000 KWh)	Electricity: non-renewable	293.6	301.2	271.7
	Gas	34.9	32.5	32.3
Financial Indicators (£'000)	Expenditure on domestic official business travel	6.8	7.5	3.5
Non-Financial Indicators (m^3)	Water consumption supplied	705	747	811
	Water consumption per full time equivalent (FTE)	4.3	4.9	5.2
Mileage ('000)	Total mileage travelled in vehicles owned or leased by VMD	90.5	130.3	Records not available

The costs for our energy, water and waste disposal are part of the overall Defra Corporate Recharge costs and are not billed separately. The VMD building is located on a shared site with the APHA in Weybridge and all our waste goes into one system to help incinerate less flammable waste such as animal bedding. The glass and metals are extracted and flash heat treated to ensure biosecurity.

Greening Government Commitment targets and performance

Commitment	Target		2019/20 Performance
Total gross emissions:			
to reduce carbon emissions by 38% from the estate and business related travel	2009/10 baseline	254 tCO^2	164.5 tCO^2
	2019/20 target	157.5 tCO^2	
Domestic travel:			
to cut domestic business travel flights by 30%	2013 baseline*	34 flights$^+$	46 flights$^+$
	2019/20 target	24 flights$^+$	
Waste:			
to reduce the amount of waste generated by 25%	2009/10 baseline	43.7 tonnes	8.0 tonnes
	2019/20 target	32.8 tonnes	
Water:			
an overall reduction in water consumption	2009/10 baseline	1,000 m^3	705 m^3
	2019/20 target	Reduction	

* Flight records are not available prior to 2013, therefore this figure is used for our baseline.

$^+$ Figures are given as the number of airline journeys.

Greenhouse gas emissions

The main direct impacts for the VMD are in our electricity and gas consumption. Significant changes to consumption cannot be made without capital investment, for example to introduce more energy efficient heat sources, to reduce solar gain.

Our energy consumption reflects the unseasonably hot summer and cold winter and the additional use of fans and heaters throughout these periods.

Domestic travel

Staff undertake nearly all domestic business travel using the train with the exception of travel to Northern Ireland and Scotland. The impact of carbon emissions for these is balanced with economic and efficiency factors and is limited to essential travel.

Mileage

During this reporting period we have realised travelling effiencies and carried out fewer onsite inspections which has resulted in lower vehicle mileage.

Waste

Our main waste is paper and other office related materials. We have produced 75% less waste against the target for 2019/20. We continue to work to reduce our paper usage by moving to digital working.

Water consumption

We continue to reduce our water use. Our main use is in the toilet facilities, which have ‘water pigs’ in the cisterns. We cannot do more to reduce toilet facility water usage without capital investment in new hardware. The two showers are already low volume units.

Professor SP Borriello
Chief Executive
15 July 2020

Accountability Report

Corporate Governance Report
Director’s Report

Board and Executive Directors

The VMD employs two Directors in addition to the Chief Executive.

Position	Position holder
Chief Executive	Peter Borriello
Director of Authorisations	Abigail Seager
Director of Operations	Paul Green

The notice period for Executive Directors is three months.

The composition of the Management Board (including non-executive directors), which provides leadership for directing or controlling the major activities during the year is described within the Governance Statement in this report.

The Board members had no company directorships or other significant interests which conflicted with their management responsibilities in the financial year 2019/20.

Protecting personal data

There were no personal data-related incidents in 2019/20.

Statement of Accounting Officer's Responsibilities

Under the Government Resources and Accounts Act 2000 HM Treasury has directed the VMD to prepare for each financial year a statement of accounts in the form and on the basis set out in the Accounts Direction.

The Accounts are prepared on an accruals basis and must give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the VMD and of its income and expenditure, statement of financial position and cash flows for the financial year.

In preparing the Accounts the Accounting Officer is required to comply with the requirements of the Government Financial Reporting Manual (FReM) and in particular to:

- observe the Accounts Direction issued by HM Treasury, including the relevant accounting and disclosure requirements, and apply suitable accounting policies on a consistent basis
- make judgements and estimates on a reasonable basis
- state whether applicable accounting standards as set out in the Government FReM have been followed, and disclose and explain any material departures in the Accounts
- prepare the accounts on the going concern basis
- confirm that the Annual Report and Accounts as a whole is fair, balanced and understandable and take personal responsibility for the Annual Report and Accounts and the judgements required for determining that it is fair, balanced and understandable

The Accounting Officer for Defra has designated the Chief Executive of the VMD as Accounting Officer of the VMD. The responsibilities of an Accounting Officer, including responsibility for the propriety and regularity of the public finances for which the Accounting Officer is answerable, for keeping proper records and for safeguarding the Agency's assets, are set out in Managing Public Money published by HM Treasury.

Preparation and audit of the Accounts

The Accounts have been prepared under a direction issued on 18 June 2020 by HM Treasury under Section 7(2) of the Government Resources and Accounts Act 2000 and are audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General.

Our income and expenditure was monitored under a gross control total by HM Treasury and was also incorporated into the Defra Resource Accounting total.

As the Accounting Officer, I have taken all steps that I ought to have taken to make myself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that VMD's auditors are aware of that information. So far as I am aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the auditors are unaware.

Governance Statement

The Accounting Officer is responsible for maintaining a system of internal control that supports the achievement of the Agency's policies, aims and objectives, while safeguarding public funds and departmental assets. This is in accordance with the responsibilities assigned in the HM Treasury publication; Managing Public Money.

Assurance and audit findings in this governance statement overall confirm that we have complied with the governance arrangements effectively.

Governance framework

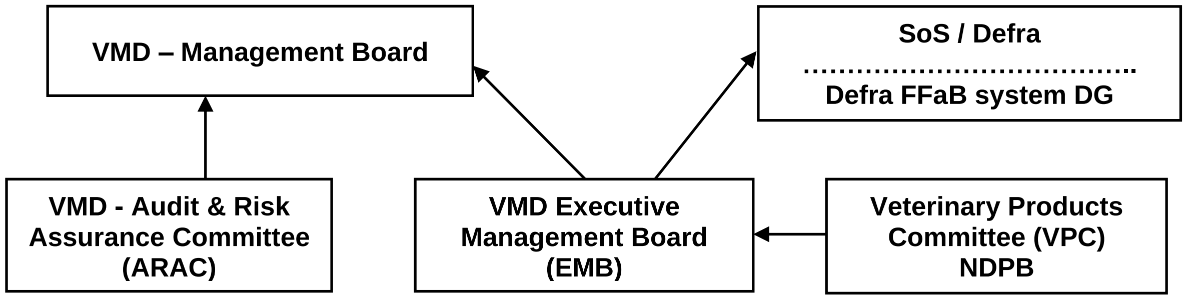
The VMD is an Executive Agency of Defra. We are the UK policy lead on veterinary medicines and, as the national competent authority, are responsible for the implementation of all aspects of the VMD and related legislation.

The Agency is led by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), who is accountable to the Secretary of State for Defra for our performance and operation and for the achievement of our business priorities in accordance with its targets and key deliverables.

The Secretary of State for Defra determines the overall policy and financial framework within which we operate and the Defra ownership function is exercised by the Defra Director General for Food, Farming and Biosecurity (DG FFaB). The DG FFaB provides advice and challenge on our strategic direction and performance to the VMD management. The CEO formally reports on Agency performance to Defra through the quarterly DG FFaB meetings.

Committee structure

VMD Committee Infrastructure



The VMD Management Board (MB) meets quarterly and is the internal governance board providing advice, support and challenge on: the delivery of the key objectives; achieving value for money, and regularity and propriety in the administration and operation of the VMD. Chaired by a Non-executive Director (NED) Julia Drown, the MB consists of the CEO, the two Directors, the Head of the Business Support Division, the Head of Finance and two other NEDs, David Corner and David Catlow. The Chief Veterinary Officer, a Defra representative and selected Heads of Teams, as appropriate and applicable to the tabled agenda, are also invited to attend. Minutes of MB meetings are published on gov.uk.

The Audit and Risk Assurance Committee (ARAC), a sub-committee of the MB, also meets quarterly and provides advice to the CEO on the adequacy and effectiveness of the VMD's governance and risk management frameworks. Chaired by a NED, David Corner, and consisting of the other two NEDs, the committee considers reports from a number of senior staff, Defra's internal auditor (the Government Internal Audit Agency; GIAA) and the external auditor (the National Audit Office). Minutes of ARAC meetings are published on www.gov.uk.

Executive Management Board (EMB) is formed of the CEO, the two Directors and the Head of Business Support Division who collectively form the Executive Team that sets the direction for the Agency and has the overall authority to run the Agency on a day-to-day basis.

The Veterinary Products Committee is an independent scientific advisory committee which advises the VMD on veterinary medicinal products and animal feed additives.

The VPC held meetings in June, September and February. Minutes of meetings and further information is published on gov.uk. The Committee considered and gave advice to the VMD for an application to change the legal category of a range of authorised products. It also considered an appeal against the decision to refuse an application to add a substance to the list of approved active substances that may be used in products marketed under Schedule 6. It continued to monitor veterinary pharmacovigilance activities through the reports compiled by the VMD's Pharmacovigilance team. In addition, the Committee held an open meeting in September in conjunction with the VMD.

The overall governance structure and associated assurance, as well as advice and challenge, are enriched by the VPC and discussions between the CEO and the CVO. We hold external certification to ISO 9001:2015 (Quality Management), which covers all our operational processes. We also hold external certification to ISO 27001:2013 (Information Security).

During the year we have worked effectively with GIAA to review: our Policies and Procedures to deal with product defects; our implementation of Contract Management, and Communication Stakeholder Engagement, and Vet Practice Inspections to confirm the VMD's assurance and control framework is fit for purpose.

Audits
In September 2019 our independent external auditor, SGS recertified the VMD to ISO 9001 (Quality Management) and ISO 27001 (Information Security) standards confirming that its systems and processes met these internationally recognised standards. There were six minor non-conformities identified, and a small number of opportunities for improvement were recommended. We are addressing the non-conformities. We are considering the recommendations for opportunities for improvement, such recommendations are advisory and do not have to be acted upon. Certification lasts for 3 years.

Our Civil Service People Survey engagement index score (the survey's measure of those areas that most shape our experience at work) is 65% (64% last year). This is +2 on the rest of the civil service and represents the 14th highest score in the survey.

Compliance with the Corporate Governance Code

The focus of HM Treasury's Corporate Governance Code (CGC) is on ministerial departments and sets out the protocol, accountabilities and role of Departmental Boards. We apply the principles of the code, which requires that Boards operate according to recognised precepts of good corporate governance in business: leadership; effectiveness; accountability; and sustainability. It also requires that arrangements are in place for an annual evaluation of the effectiveness of the Board and for results of the evaluation to be acted upon.

The MB and ARAC assessed their effectiveness and the quality of the management information and performance data at each meeting and found both to be acceptable. A more formal assessment was carried out following their March 2020 meetings whereby Committee members and regular attendees of the Boards completed a questionnaire. The results were discussed at the July 2020 meetings.

The EMB has formally assessed its compliance with the CGC and its effectiveness as evidenced by the full delivery of the 2019/20 targets and key deliverables, and the results of the 2019 annual staff survey. The outcomes of the EMB are reported to staff through the weekly Chief Executive's Newsletter and where appropriate Office Notices. To increase involvement and increase challenge from outside the Executive Team, individual Heads of Team are invited on a rolling basis for a month each to attend and contribute to the meeting.

Conflicts of interest

All VMD staff and Board members are required annually to declare interests which could emerge as a conflict of interest. There is a standing agenda item on declarations of interest at the start of every Board meeting and members who have declared a specific conflict leave the meeting during the discussion of that item. During 2019/20 no Board member conflicts of interest were identified.

Governance and control

Whistleblowing

We are committed to high standards, reinforced by the Civil Service Code, of integrity, honesty and professionalism in all that we do. We encourage all employees to use Defra's Whistleblowing Policy if they need to raise a concern about a past, present or imminent wrongdoing within Defra/VMD; or any wrongdoings which conflict with the Civil Service Code.

Business critical models and quality assurance

An appropriate quality assurance framework is in place to assess business models relevant to the Agency. We obtain through MB and ARAC assurance that the associated risks are properly managed. There are no business models which currently fall within the definition 'business critical models' as set out by HM Treasury.

Quality Management System

Our Quality Management System (QMS) ensures processes and procedures are documented and managed effectively. Trained VMD auditors, Defra Internal Auditors the National Audit Office (NAO) and external consultants – SGS – provide assurance that processes are being followed and improvements are made on an ongoing basis. Our Quality Management System is certified to ISO 9001:2015.

Business continuity plans
We operate a Business Continuity Management system to ensure the operation of key activities in the event of a serious incident, including our off-site IT back-up systems. Our senior management team also carried out its annual ‘desk-top’ test of the plan; and we reviewed and reissued our Business Continuity Plan in November 2019.

Information management and data security
We have an established governance structure to ensure that information assets are handled appropriately. To support the Information Systems Security Officer, the Agency’s IT Security Officer provides a focal point for Information Asset Owners to seek guidance on effective approaches to managing risk. Information data handling courses are embedded in induction processes and each year we are required to complete the Responsible for Information training course.

Data security remains critical and is assured by the VMD’s maintenance of the Cabinet Office Security Standards and external certification to ISO 27001:2013.

There were no data security lapses that were deemed to be significant or critical during 2019/20.

We continued to be part of a wider Defra Data Protection Network to ensure our implementation of the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) reflected the latest thinking and practice. We met regularly to share knowledge as GDPR bedded-in and developed through custom and practice. We have also continued to work with our IT systems’ developers to ensure we applied the requirements of GDPR to our new systems. In January Defra’s Data Protection Office carried out a review of our implementation of GDPR. The review’s conclusions and recommendations reflect very well on the work the VMD has done over a long period of time to ensure that we, as an organisation, meet our data protection obligations.

Managing our risks and significant issues

Our primary role is in the authorisation of veterinary medicines, which is always based on assessing the benefit of medicines against their risks. Consequently the very nature of our work is to examine risks, to reduce these to an acceptable level, and then to consider the residual risks against the benefits. This philosophy in managing risks is adopted in the approach to risk management across the organisation to identify key risks that could threaten the achievement of the VMD's objectives.

Our Strategic Risk Register and significant issues are regularly reviewed by the EMB, MB and ARAC and updated as necessary. The degree of risk is measured by considering the likelihood and impact of those risks and issues, and in 2019/20 these were:

Covid-19 pandemic

- potential impaired ability to deliver our services
- impacts on VMD's stakeholders and consequent implications for the VMD

Operational

- inadequate business continuity procedures
- inadequate IT services and associated communications
- reduction in funding

Reputational

- reduced confidence in veterinary medicines, food safety and/or the VMD
- risk of litigation
- failure to deliver on newly secured contracts with third sector funders for medicines regulation capability development work

Financial

- EU Exit and potential reduction in revenue
- failure to deliver statutory requirements
- overspending budget
- fraud

Staffing

- failure to attract and retain experienced professional staff for certain skills, particularly in buoyant veterinary medicines and IT sectors where demand for scarce experience and talent is high
- delays in Defra and Government Recruitment Service (GRS) processing candidates

Governance or structural changes

- imposed change to estate and/or other support services

EU Exit and International

- consideration of EU Exit and its impact on the VMD
- international process/regulation changes that adversely impact UK interests including exit from the EU

Delivery by partners

- inability of partner organisations to deliver on our behalf
- decreasing resilience of others to deliver commissioned services
- inability of centralised government services to deliver support needed

Mitigation of risks

All of these were managed appropriately by the VMD through:

- careful workforce and succession planning
- providing first-class learning and development that develops talent within the Agency
- strong management focus on efficiencies
- contract management
- project management
- escalating unresolved business continuity issues with central Defra
- collaboration with central Defra, especially in relation to EU Exit
- ability to respond swiftly to Business Continuity issues – e.g. Covid-19 and IT enabling the whole agency to be working remotely within one week

The Covid-19 pandemic and its implications have created uncertainty and additional pressures for a full response, including a successful and swift change in working practices by the VMD temporarily moving to full remote working. Coming at the end of the year its impact was very limited, apart from the move away from office working. Continuing uncertainty both for the VMD and its stakeholders remains a risk for delivery, especially for inspectors being able to operate.

The UK's exit from the EU continued to be a high risk area for the Agency, in particular, the uncertainty over our new relationship with the EU, for medicines regulation and the ability to make the most of the opportunities that will arise following leaving the EU.

Some of the specific actions we implemented and progressed to help control risks included:

- secured funds
- dedicated work force planning
- operational readiness
- working with Defra, Department of Health and the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency

We also seek to identify risks that, while not significant enough to appear on the Strategic Risk Register, could still affect the successful outcome of our objectives. These risks are managed within individual business areas and are ‘owned’ by the respective Departmental Heads or Project Leaders who report progress to Directors at regular intervals. This includes a process for escalation to the Strategic Risk Register.

Internal audit arrangements

From 1 April 2019 we changed contractors for our Internal Auditors and the Government Internal Audit Agency has been responsible for providing VMD’s internal audit service. Internal auditors carry out their work in line with the Annual Internal Audit Plan that is informed by our risk profile and approved by the ARAC on an annual basis. Internal auditors complete their Internal Audit responsibilities using a methodology that is aligned to Public Sector Internal Audit Standards. Reports are issued making recommendations for improvements where appropriate. These four reports were issued during 2019/20:

- Contract Management – overall rating “Moderate”
- Policies and Procedures to deal with product defects – overall “Substantial”
- Vet Practice Inspections are of the same quality and deliver consistent outcomes – overall rating “Limited”, due to the VMD having an ambiguous Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with a partner body and thus leaving contractual obligations open to interpretation. As a result a new MoU is being developed with the partner body
- Communication Stakeholder Engagement – overall rating “Moderate”

In their Annual Report, which offers their opinion on the adequacy and effectiveness of risk management, control and governance, the Head of Internal Audit Opinion is one of “Moderate Assurance”.

Using staff trained as auditors in ISO 9001:2015 standards we have also carried out an internal audit of our Accredited Internet Retailers Scheme process.

Whilst no significant internal control problems have been identified during the year, we continually strive to build on the procedures and processes that we already have in place to manage risk.

Remuneration and Staff Report

Service contracts
The Constitutional Reform and Governance Act 2010 requires Civil Service appointments to be made on merit, on the basis of fair and open competition. The Recruitment Principles published by the Civil Service Commission specify the circumstances when appointments may be made or not.

Unless otherwise stated below, the officials covered by this report hold appointments which are open ended. Early termination, other than for misconduct, would result in the individual receiving compensation as set out in the Civil Service Compensation Scheme.

Further information about the work of the Civil Service Commission can be found on the Civil Service Commission website.

Remuneration Policy

The remuneration of the Senior Civil Service (SCS) is set by the Prime Minister following independent advice from the Senior Salaries Review Body (SSRB). The Cabinet Office advises departments in March or April each year of the Government's response to the SSRB recommendations and produces guidance for departments and network bodies to follow.

Defra develops the SCS Reward Strategy within the Cabinet Office Framework, ensuring that the overall pay awards for the SCS are within the cost ceiling allowed.

Members of the SCS, excluding the Permanent Secretary, are eligible to be considered for individual levels of bonus as non-pensionable, non-consolidated variable pay (NCVP), based on their performance. NCVP is paid in the financial year after that in which it was earned. NCVP values, informed by each individual's appraisal grade, are paid within Cabinet Office guidelines.

Remuneration – salary, benefits-in-kind and pensions (audited)

The following sections provide details of the remuneration and pension interests of the VMD's Directors.

Single total figure of remuneration										
Officials	**Salary £'000**		**Bonus payments £'000**		**Benefits-in-kind to nearest £100**		**Pension benefits to nearest £1000(1)**		**Total £'000**	
	2019/20	2018/19	2019/20	2018/19	2019/20	2018/19	2019/20	2018/19	2019/20	2018/19
SP Borriello Chief Executive	120-125	120-125	0-5	-	-	-	61,000	47,000	185-190	165-170
A Seager Director of Authorisations	70-75	60-65(2)	5-10	-	-	-	37,000	53,000	115-120	115-120
P Green Director of Operations	70-75	70-75	-	-	-	-	29,000	7,000	100-105	80-85

(1) The value of pension benefits accrued during the year is calculated as (the real increase in pension multiplied by 20) plus (the real increase in any lump sum) less (the contributions made by the individual). The real increases exclude increases due to inflation or any increase or decreases due to a transfer of pension rights.

(2) A Seager took up the post of Director of Authorisations on 1 May 2018. Figures quoted are for the period 1 May 2018 to 31 March 2019. The full year equivalent banding is £65,000 to £70,000.

Salary

'Salary' includes gross salary; overtime; reserved rights to London weighting or London allowances; recruitment and retention allowances; private office allowances, and any other allowance to the extent that it is subject to UK taxation. This report is based on accrued payments made by the Agency and thus recorded in these accounts.

Benefits-in-kind

The monetary value of benefits-in-kind covers any benefits provided by the employer and treated by HM Revenue and Customs as a taxable emolument. None of the Directors received any benefits-in-kind during the year.

Bonuses

Bonuses are based on performance levels attained and are made as part of the appraisal process. Bonuses paid in 2019/20 relate to performance in the prior financial year, comparative bonuses for 2018/19 relate to the 2017/18 performance.

Pay multiples (audited)

Reporting bodies are required to disclose the relationship between the remuneration of the highest paid director in their organisation and the median remuneration of the organisation's workforce.

The full-time equivalent annualised total banded remuneration of the highest paid Director and the median member of staff excluding the highest paid Director are as shown in the following table:

Total remuneration	Highest paid Director £'000	Median of other staff £	Pay multiple ratio
2019/20	120-125	36,168	3.4
2018/19 (restated)	120-125	35,670	3.4

The 2018/19 figures have been restated to only include remuneration for agency staff in-post as at 31 March 2019 and exclude the annualised remuneration of staff who joined or left the organisation within the year.

In 2019/20, no employees received remuneration in excess of the highest paid Director (2018/19, nil). Remuneration ranged from £16,500 to £124,000 (2018/19: £16,000 to £121,000).

Total remuneration includes salary, non-consolidated performance-related pay and benefits-in-kind. It does not include severance payments, employer pension contributions and the cash equivalent transfer value of pensions.

There have been no ex gratia payments or amounts paid during the year in respect of compensation to former senior managers or to third parties for services of a senior manager.

None of the VMD Directors have held any company directorships or other significant interests during the year that, in the opinion of the Directors, may conflict with their management responsibilities.

No employer contributions were made to partnership pension accounts during 2019/20 or 2018/19 in respect of the VMD's Directors.

Civil service pensions
Pension benefits are provided through the Civil Service pension arrangements. From 1 April 2015 a new pension scheme for civil servants was introduced – the Civil Servants and Others Pension Scheme or alpha, which provides benefits on a career average basis with a normal pension age equal to the member's State Pension Age (or 65 if higher). From that date all newly appointed civil servants and the majority of those already in service joined alpha. Prior to this, civil servants participated in the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (PCSPS). Further details about the Civil Service pension features and benefits can be found in the resource accounts of the Cabinet Office: Civil Superannuation, www.civilservicepensionscheme.org.uk.

These statutory arrangements are unfunded with the cost of benefits met by monies voted by Parliament each year and increased annually in line with Pensions Increase legislation.

Other arrangements include money purchase pensions known as a 'partnership' are available as an alternative for employees joining on or after the 1 October 2002. The employer makes an age related basic contribution of between 8% and 14.75% into a stakeholder pension product chosen by the employee from a panel of providers. The employee does not have to contribute but where they do make contributions, the employer will match these up to a limit of 3% of pensionable salary (in addition to the employer's basic contribution). Employers also contribute a further 0.5% of pensionable salary to cover the cost of death in service and ill health retirement lump sum benefits.

The pension figures quoted for officials in this report show combined pension earned in all schemes as appropriate.

Cash equivalent transfer values
A Cash Equivalent Transfer Value (CETV) is the actuarially assessed capitalised value of the pension scheme benefits accrued by a member at a particular point in time. The benefits valued are the member's accrued benefits and any contingent spouse's pension payable from the scheme. A CETV is a payment made by a pension scheme or

arrangement to secure pension benefits in another pension scheme or arrangement when the member leaves a scheme and chooses to transfer the benefits accrued in their former scheme.

The pension figures shown relate to the benefits that the individual has accrued as a consequence of their total membership of the pension scheme, not just their service in a senior capacity to which disclosure applies. These figures also include the value of any pension benefit in another scheme or arrangement which has been transferred to the Civil Service pension arrangements and any additional pension benefit accrued as a result of buying additional pension benefits at their own cost. CETVs are worked out in accordance with The Occupational Pension Schemes (Transfer Values) (Amendment) Regulations 2008 and do not take account of any actual or potential reduction to benefits resulting from Lifetime Allowance Tax which may be due when pension benefits are taken.

Real increase in CETV (audited)

This reflects the increase in CETV that is funded by the employer. It does not include the increase in accrued pension due to inflation, contributions paid by the employee (including the value of any benefits transferred from another pension scheme or arrangement) and uses common market valuation factors for the start and end of the period.

	Accrued pension at pension age as at 31/3/20 and related lump sum £'000	**Real increase in pension and related sum at pension age £'000**	**CETV at 31/3/20 £'000**	**CETV at 31/3/19 £'000**	**Real Increase in CETV £'000**
SP Borriello Chief Executive	35-40 plus lump sum of 0	2.5-5.0 plus lump sum of 0	626	570	52
A Seager Director of Authorisations	15-20 plus lump sum of 0	0-2.5 plus lump sum of 0	244	214	17
P Green Director of Operations	20-25 plus lump sum of 70-75	0-2.5 plus lump sum of 0-2.5	540	494	21

External Management Board members (audited)

Membership details of the Management Board are detailed in the Governance Statement in this report. The Non-executive members also form the ARAC. The following salaries and benefits-in-kind were paid to the external members:

2019/20	**D Corner** £'000	**J Drown** £'000	**D Catlow** £'000
Salary (as defined above)	0-5	0-5	0-5
Benefits-in-kind (1)	0-5	0-5	0-5
Total	**0-5**	**0-5**	**0-5**

2018/19	**D Corner** £'000	**J Drown** £'000	**D Catlow** £'000
Salary (as defined above)	0-5	0-5	0-5
Benefits-in-kind (1)	0-5	0-5	0-5
Total	**0-5**	**0-5**	**0-5**

1. Benefits-in-kind relate to reimbursement of home to office travel and subsistence.

Staff Report

Staff numbers (audited)
At 31 March 2020 we employed 168 permanent staff (163.2 FTE) and 15 temporary staff (14.4 FTE) supplied by local employment agencies. The average number of full-time equivalent permanent and temporary staff during the year and an analysis of staff-in-post (headcount) as at 31 March 2020 by gender are shown below.

We comply with equal opportunities legislation and departmental policy in relation to disabled employees, and Defra's policies on equal opportunities and health and safety at work.

Staff recruitment
Following a Civil Service Commission (CSC) annual 'Recruitment Compliance' visit in January, the CSC observed excellent compliance with the CSC's Recruitment Code.

The average FTE number of persons employed during the year was as follows (audited):

	2019/20			2018/19
	Permanently employed staff	**Temporary staff**	**Total**	**Total**
Scientific	59	2	61	58
Administrative	95	12	107	105
Staff engaged on capital projects	4	-	4	-
	158	**14**	**172**	**163**

The number of staff-in-post (headcount) by gender as at 31 March 2020 was as follows:

	2019/20			2018/19		
	Male	**Female**	**Total**	**Male**	**Female**	**Total**
Directors	2	1	3	2	1	3
Other staff - Scientific	28	33	61	24	35	59
Other staff - Administrative	43	61	104	39	55	94
	73	**95**	**168**	**65**	**91**	**156**

Early departure costs (audited)

Redundancy and other departure costs are paid in accordance with the provisions of the Civil Service Compensation Scheme, a statutory scheme made under the Superannuation Act 1972. Exit costs are accounted for in full in the year of departure or earlier where a demonstrable commitment exists.

For all staff, there were no early departures in 2019/20 (2018/19: nil).

For all staff, there were no compulsory exits in 2019/20 (2018/19: nil).

Staff costs (audited)

Staff costs consist of the following:	2019/20			2018/19
	Permanently employed staff	**Temporary staff**	**Total**	**Total**
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Wages and salaries	6,731	618	7,349	6,802
Social security costs	711	-	711	704
Other pension costs	1,761	-	1,761	1,297
	9,203	**618**	**9,821**	**8,803**
Less amounts charged to capital projects	(256)	-	(256)	-
Sub-total as reported in Statement of Comprehensive Net Expenditure	**8,947**	**618**	**9,565**	**8,803**
Less recoveries in respect of outward secondments	(239)	-	(239)	(216)
	8,708	**618**	**9,326**	**8,587**

Senior managers' remuneration

Details of the Chief Executive's and Directors' salaries and pension entitlements are shown in the Remuneration and Staff Report section.

Pensions

Pension benefits provided through the Civil Service pension arrangements are unfunded multi-employer defined benefit scheme and we are unable to identify our share of the underlying assets and liabilities. The Scheme Actuary valued the scheme as at 31 March 2016. You can find details in the resource accounts of the Cabinet Office: Civil Superannuation, www.civilservicepensionscheme.org.uk.

For 2019/20, employers' contributions of £1,731,072 were payable to the PCSPS (2018/19 £1,266,170) at one of four rates in the range 26.6% to 30.3% (2018/19: 20.0% to 24.5%) of pensionable earnings, based on salary bands. The Scheme Actuary reviews employer contributions usually every four years following a full scheme valuation. The contribution rates are set to meet the cost of the benefits accruing during 2019/20 to be paid when the member retires and not the benefits paid during this period to existing pensioners.

Employees can opt to open a partnership pension account, a stakeholder pension with an employer contribution. Employers' contributions of £26,969 (2018/19: £29,551) were paid to one or more of the panel of three appointed stakeholder pension providers.

In addition, employer contributions of £823, 0.5% of pensionable pay (2018/19: £913) were payable to the PCSPS to cover the cost of the future provision of lump sum benefits on death in service or ill-health retirement of these employees.

Contributions due to the partnership pension providers at the balance sheet date were £2,371 (2018/19: £3,000). Contributions prepaid at that date were nil.

No individuals retired early on ill-health grounds during the year and therefore no additional pension liabilities have been accrued for this purpose.

Sickness absence data

The total full-time equivalent days lost through staff sickness absence in the year was 493 compared to 639 in 2018/19. The average working days lost per employee during the year was 3.1 compared to 4.2 in 2018/19. The 2018/19 comparatives above have been restated.

Short term sickness absences of 10 days or less dropped from 1.9 days per FTE in 2018/19 to 1.4 days per FTE in 2019/20.

Tax arrangements of public sector appointees

As part of HM Treasury's review of tax arrangements of public sector appointees, departments and their arms-length bodies are required to publish information in relation to the number of off payroll engagements lasting more than six months and costing over £245 per day that were in place as at 31 March 2020.

Number of existing engagements as of 31 March 2020	18
Of which…	
Number that have existed for less than one year at time of reporting	9
Number that have existed for between one and two years at time of reporting	8
Number that have existed for between two and three years at time of reporting	1
Number that have existed for between three and four years at time of reporting	-
Number that have existed for four or more years at time of reporting	-

Number of new engagements, or those that reached six months in duration, between 1 April 2019 and 31 March 2020	9
Of which…	
Number assessed as caught by IR35	-
Number assessed as not caught by IR35	9
Number engaged directly (via a Personal Services Company contracted to the department) and are on the departmental payroll	-
Number of engagements reassessed for consistency/assurance purposes during the year	9
Number of engagements that saw a change to IR35 status following the consistency review	-

Off-payroll engagements of Board members and/or senior officials with significant financial responsibility between 1 April 2019 and 31 March 2020

Number of off-payroll engagements of Board members, and/or senior officials with significant financial responsibility, during the financial year	-
Total number of individuals on-payroll and off-payroll that have been deemed “board members, and/or senior officials with significant financial responsibility”, during the financial year.	Board members/senior officials x 3 (1 CEO, 2 Directors) 3 x Non-Executive Directors

Consultancy and temporary staff expenditure

	2019/20	2018/19
	£'000	£'000
Consultancy expenditure	1,448	1,453
Temporary staff expenditure	618	478
Total	**2,066**	**1,931**

Additional specialised skills have been required to support plans for EU Exit. Consultants are engaged when it is better value for money to do so on specific programme work and when specialised skills are required. Expenditure on temporary staff has provided additional resources to meet short term needs to support priority projects and cover for the backlog in filling vacancies.

Employee involvement

We encourage staff involvement in our activities through a variety of channels including: a VMD intranet; topic meetings; day-to-day line management contacts; diverse membership of project teams, and regular meetings reviewing progress against the Business Plan and risk. VMD staff also took part in the Food, Farming and Biosecurity 'System Conversion' during 2018, which was an appreciative inquiry exercise which identified areas of good practice as well as issues staff wanted to improve. VMD managers attended the FFaB Line Management roadshows to discuss best practise on Line Management as well as G7s+ attending the FFaB leadership conference in October 2019. Office Notices and the intranet are used to disseminate information. An annual staff meeting to review the work of the past year and expected key future issues is addressed by the CEO. We work with Defra on wellbeing activities and staff have access to both occupational health and employee assistance services. Trade Union membership and representation is in accordance with Defra's policies.

The VMD was re-accredited to the Investors in People Silver standard in July 2018.

Health and safety

Due to mainly low risk activities and the size of the organisation we continue to use the policies and advice services from Defra's Safety, Health and Wellbeing team. One minor work-related incident was reported by employees during 2019/20 and changes have been made to address the cause of this incident.

Parliamentary Accountability and Audit Report (Audited)

Regularity of expenditure

We have considered all our activities during the year and confirm that they are in accordance with the legislation authorising them.

Sources of funding and associated costs

2019/20	Income	Expenditure	Net Income / Defra Funding
Reconciliation to the Statement of Comprehensive Net Expenditure			
Industry Fees and Charges			
Veterinary pharmaceutical industry	6,466	6,466	-
Food industry	3,798	3,798	-
Sub-total Industry Fees and Charges	10,264	10,264	-
Other external income			
International	267	261	6
Recovery of secondments	239	239	-
Other income	9	9	-
Sub-total Other external income	515	509	6
Government funded activities			
Services for Government (1) and (2)	459	2,999	(2,540)
Research and Development	-	1,292	(1,292)
EU Exit	-	5,973	(5,973)
Food Industry residues in Honey	-	38	(38)
Defra Budget - funding requirement (3)	459	10,302	(9,843)
Less: Cost of Capital Charge (4)	-	(245)	245
Statement of Comprehensive Net Expenditure	11,238	20,830	(9,592)

(1) Services for Government include: Policy; enforcement; AMR programmes.

(2) A grant from the Fleming Fund (£310,000); an EU grant (£61,000); and a contribution from the devolved administrations (£88,000) has been received in 2019/20, contributing to the cost of the AMR programme.

(3) From the 1 April 2016, the VMD converted its financial reporting status from Net Controlled Agency to a Gross Controlled Agency. This resulting accounting policy change means that the VMD’s work for Defra is no longer reported as income within the SoCNE, rather the VMD receives an allocated expenditure budget.

(4) The VMD is required to include a notional cost of capital charge in the calculation of fees and charges. In line with HM Treasury guidance, this figure is excluded from the results presented in the Annual Accounts.

Fees and charges

Our fees and charges are set in statute. Our objective for charging is to ensure that we recover our costs for delivering the service. In assessing performance against this target a notional cost of capital charge is recorded in addition to the costs included in the Statement of Comprehensive Net Expenditure. The table below sets out the amount of income we have received and associated costs for the different areas of service which we provide to industry.

2019/20	**Income £000**	**Cost £000**	**Net Income £000**	**Cost Recovery %**
Veterinary pharmaceutical industry	6,466	6,466	-	100%
Food industry	3,798	3,798	-	100%
Total	**10,264**	**10,264**	**-**	**100%**

2018/19	**Income £000**	**Cost £000**	**Net Income £000**	**Cost Recovery %**
Veterinary pharmaceutical industry	7,326	7,179	147	102%
Food industry	3,577	3,577	-	100%
Total	**10,903**	**10,756**	**147**	**101%**

Losses and special payments

Managing Public Money requires a statement showing losses and special payments by value and type to be shown where they exceed £300,000 in total, and those individually that exceed £300,000.

Losses may relate to: cash and stores losses; book-keeping losses; losses arising from failure to make adequate charge for the use of public property or services; fruitless payments, and claims abandoned as well as frauds. Special payments may relate to extra contractual, extra statutory, and ex gratia payments and compensation.

There were no losses or special payments that need to be reported in accordance with Managing Public Money.

Contingent liabilities

There were no contingent liabilities as at 31 March 2020 (31 March 2019: nil).

Remote contingent liabilities

In addition to contingent liabilities reported within the meaning of IAS 37, Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets, the agency discloses, for parliamentary reporting and accountability purposes, liabilities for which the likelihood of a transfer of economic benefit in settlement is too remote to meet the definition of a contingent liability. As at 31 March 2020 there is one remote contingent liability concerning a potential legal case against the VMD (2018/19 nil).

Professor SP Borriello
Chief Executive
15 July 2020

The Certificate and Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General to the House of Commons

Opinion on financial statements
I certify that I have audited the financial statements of the Veterinary Medicines Directorate for the year ended 31 March 2020 under the Government Resources and Accounts Act 2000. The financial statements comprise: the Statements of Comprehensive Net Expenditure, Financial Position, Cash Flows, Changes in Taxpayers' Equity; and the related notes, including the significant accounting policies. These financial statements have been prepared under the accounting policies set out within them. I have also audited the information in the Parliamentary Accountability and Audit Report that is described in that report as having been audited.

In my opinion:

- the financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of the Veterinary Medicines Directorate's affairs as at 31 March 2020 and of the net operating cost for the year then ended; and
- the financial statements have been properly prepared in accordance with the Government Resources and Accounts Act 2000 and HM Treasury directions issued thereunder.

Emphasis of matter – material uncertainty regarding land and buildings valuation
Without qualifying my opinion, I draw attention to the disclosures in note 1.3 to the financial statements in relation to the valuation of the land and buildings owned by the Veterinary Medicines Directorate. As set out in the Note, COVID-19 is affecting market activity in many sectors and, in line with guidance from the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS), the independent valuer's valuation of the Veterinary Medicines Directorate's land and buildings as at 31 March 2020 included a "material uncertainty" clause. This means a higher degree of caution, and therefore less certainty, should be attached to the valuation than would normally be the case.

Opinion on regularity
In my opinion, in all material respects the income and expenditure recorded in the financial statements have been applied to the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions recorded in the financial statements conform to the authorities which govern them.

Basis of opinions
I conducted my audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs) (UK) and Practice Note 10 'Audit of Financial Statements of Public Sector Entities in the United Kingdom'. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of my certificate. Those standards require me and my staff to comply with the Financial Reporting Council's Revised Ethical Standard 2016. I am independent of the Veterinary Medicines Directorate in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to my audit and the financial statements in the UK. My staff and I have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern
I have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require me to report to you where:

- the Veterinary Medicines Directorate's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the Veterinary Medicines Directorate have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the Veterinary Medicines Directorate's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Responsibilities of the Accounting Officer for the financial statements
As explained more fully in the Statement of Accounting Officer's Responsibilities, the Chief Executive as Accounting Officer is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements
My responsibility is to audit, certify and report on the financial statements in accordance with the Government Resources and Accounts Act 2000.

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), I exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Veterinary Medicines Directorate's internal control.
- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Veterinary Medicines Directorate use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Veterinary Medicines Directorate ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my report. However, future events or conditions may cause Veterinary Medicines Directorate to cease to continue as a going concern.

I communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

I am required to obtain evidence sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the expenditure and income recorded in the financial statements have been applied to the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions recorded in the financial statements conform to the authorities which govern them.

Other Information
The Chief Executive as Accounting Officer is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises information included in the annual report, but does not include the parts of the Parliamentary Accountability and Audit Report described in that report as having been audited, the financial statements and my auditor’s report thereon. My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. In connection with my audit of the financial statements, my responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or my knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, I am required to report that fact. I have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters
In my opinion:

- the parts of the Parliamentary Accountability and Audit Report to be audited have been properly prepared in accordance with HM Treasury directions made under the Government Resources and Accounts Act 2000;
- in the light of the knowledge and understanding of the entity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, I have not identified any material misstatements in the Performance Report and Parliamentary Accountability and Audit Report; and
- the information given in the Performance Report and Parliamentary Accountability and Audit Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements and have been prepared in accordance with the applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which I report by exception
I have nothing to report in respect of the following matters which I report to you if, in my opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept or returns adequate for my audit have not been received from branches not visited by my staff; or
- the financial statements and the parts of the Parliamentary Accountability and Audit Report to be audited are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- I have not received all of the information and explanations I require for my audit; or
- the Governance Statement does not reflect compliance with HM Treasury's guidance.

Report
I have no observations to make on these financial statements.

Gareth Davies **Date: 16 July 2020**
Comptroller and Auditor General

National Audit Office
157-197 Buckingham Palace Road
Victoria
London
SW1W 9SP

Financial Statements

Statement of Comprehensive Net Expenditure

for the year ended 31 March 2020

	Note	2019/20	2018/19
		£'000	£'000
Revenue from contracts with customers	*2*	10,531	11,503
Other operating income	*2*	707	326
Total operating income		**11,238**	**11,829**
Staff costs	*3*	(9,565)	(8,803)
Purchase of services	*4*	(5,722)	(4,910)
Non-cash costs	*4*	(2,526)	(2,272)
Other operating expenditure	*4*	(3,017)	(2,927)
Total operating expenditure		**(20,830)**	**(18,912)**
Net operating expenditure		**(9,592)**	**(7,083)**
Other comprehensive expenditure			
Items that will not be reclassified to net operating costs			
Net (loss)/gain on revaluation of property, plant and equipment		(78)	544
Comprehensive net expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2020		**(9,670)**	**(6,539)**

All income and expenditure is derived from continuing operations.

The notes on pages 44 to 57 form part of these accounts.

Statement of Financial Position

as at 31 March 2020

	Note	31 March 2020		31 March 2019	
		£’000	£’000	£’000	£’000
Non-current assets:					
Property, plant and equipment	*5*	6,180		6,427	
Intangible assets	*6*	4,935		141	
Total non-current assets			**11,115**		**6,568**
Current assets:					
Trade and other receivables and contract assets	*7*	2,500		5,196	
Cash and cash equivalents	*8*	3,891		1,907	
Total current assets			**6,391**		**7,103**
Total assets			**17,506**		**13,671**
Current liabilities:					
Trade and other payables and contract liabilities	*9*	(3,622)		(3,679)	
Total current liabilities			**(3,622)**		**(3,679)**
Total assets less current liabilities			**13,884**		**9,992**
Non-current liabilities			(133)		(150)
Total assets less total liabilities			**13,751**		**9,842**
Taxpayers' equity and other reserves:					
General Fund			8,279		4,292
Revaluation Reserve			5,472		5,550
Total equity			**13,751**		**9,842**

The notes on pages 44 to 57 form part of these accounts.

Professor SP Borriello
Chief Executive and Agency Accounting Officer
15 July 2020

Statement of Cash Flow

for the year ended 31 March 2020

	Note	2019/20	2018/19
		£'000	£'000
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net operating expenditure		**(9,592)**	**(7,083)**
Adjustments for non-cash transactions arising in the year	*4*	2,526	2,272
Decrease/(Increase) in trade and other receivables	*7*	2,696	(2,669)
(Decrease)/Increase in trade and other payables	*9*	(74)	895
less movement in trade payables relating to items not passing through the SoCNE		2	(3)
Net cash inflow from operating activities		**(4,442)**	**(6,588)**
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	*5*	(175)	(43)
Purchase of intangible assets	*6*	(2,699)	(97)
Net cash outflow from investing activities		**(2,874)**	**(140)**
Cash flows from financing activities			
Supply current year		9,300	3,000
Net financing		**9,300**	**3,000**
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		**1,984**	**(3,728)**
Cash at the beginning of the year	*8*	**1,907**	**5,635**
Cash at the end of the year	*8*	**3,891**	**1,907**

The notes on pages 44 to 57 form part of these accounts.

Statement of Changes in Taxpayers' Equity

for the year ended 31 March 2020

	Note	General Fund £'000	Revaluation Reserve £'000	Total Reserves £'000
Balance at 1 April 2018		**6,457**	**5,006**	**11,463**
Changes in taxpayers' equity for 2018/19:				
Net Parliamentary Funding		3,000	-	3,000
Comprehensive net expenditure for the year		(7,083)	-	(7,083)
Non-Cash adjustments:				
DDTS	*4*	1,255	-	1,255
Defra corporate recharges	*4*	489	-	489
Defra Investigation Services	*4*	129	-	129
Auditors' remuneration	*4*	45	-	45
Movements in Reserves:				
Net gain on revaluation of property, plant and equipment	5	-	544	544
Total recognised income and expense for 2018/19		**(2,165)**	**544**	**(1,621)**
Balance at 31 March 2019		**4,292**	**5,550**	**9,842**
Changes in taxpayers' equity for 2019/20:				
Net Parliamentary Funding		9,300	-	9,300
Net operating expenditure for the year		(9,592)	-	(9,592)
Non-Cash adjustments:				
DDTS	*4*	1,202	-	1,202
Defra corporate recharges	*4*	551	-	551
Defra Investigation Services	*4*	115	-	115
Auditors' remuneration	*4*	45	-	45
Movements in Reserves:				
Net gain on revaluation of property, plant and equipment	5	-	(78)	(78)
Internally generated software – asset transfer in	*6*	2,366	-	2,366
Total recognised income and expense for 2019/20		**3,987**	**(78)**	**3,909**
Balance at 31 March 2020		**8,279**	**5,472**	**13,751**

The notes on pages 44 to 57 form part of these accounts.

Notes to the Accounts

1. Statement of accounting policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the 2019/20 Government Financial Reporting Manual (FReM) and the Accounts Direction issued by HM Treasury. The accounting policies contained in the FReM apply International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), as adapted or interpreted for the public sector context. Where the FReM permits a choice of accounting policy, the accounting policy that is judged to be most appropriate to the particular circumstances of the VMD, for the purpose of giving a true and fair view has been selected. The particular policies adopted by the VMD are described below. They been applied consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the accounts.

1.1 Accounting convention

These accounts have been prepared on an accruals basis under the historical cost convention, modified to account for the revaluation of property, plant and equipment. The accruals basis of accounting means reporting income and expenditure when it is incurred rather than when it is received or paid. The financial statements are based on the going concern principle.

1.2 Significant Judgements and Estimation Uncertainty

In the preparation of financial statements VMD is required to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported of assets and liabilities, the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities and the reported amount of income and expenditure. All estimates are based on knowledge of current facts and circumstances, assumptions concerning past events, and forecast of future events.

In the process of applying the accounting policies VMD has made the following judgements, which have the most significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements.

Contract Assets: The Agency is responsible for managing the progress of, and income earned from, scientific assessments. Individual assessments may span across more than one financial year and the preparation of the financial statements requires the Agency to determine, based on an evaluation of the terms and conditions of the arrangements, that it fully and accurately reflects the completeness of any contract assets in this regard by reference to the stage of completion of any ongoing assessments. (The revenue measurement model is reported in Note 2).

Non-current Assets/Depreciation: The Agency carries its non-current assets at fair value as stated in note 1.3 below. The charge for depreciation for each non-current asset is based on an estimate of its useful life.

1.3 Property, plant and equipment and intangible assets

Freehold Land and Buildings
Land and Buildings are subject to professional valuation at no more than five yearly intervals. These are carried out by professionally qualified independent valuers, who adhere to the principles outlined in the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) Red Book. These assets are stated at fair value, which is valued at Depreciated Replacement Cost applying to specialist buildings. Depreciated Replacement Cost is defined as “the current cost of replacing an asset with its modern equivalent asset less deductions for physical deterioration and all relevant forms of obsolescence and optimisation”. Between professional valuations, annual desk top revaluations are conducted, which have regard for prevailing local and national conditions.

It should be noted that an asset valuation exercise was carried out in March 2020 with a valuation date of 31 March 2020. In applying the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) Red Book Global Valuation Global Standards 2020, the valuer has declared a ‘material valuation uncertainty’ in the valuation report. This is on the basis of uncertainties in market caused by the impact of the Coronavirus Pandemic thus far. The professional valuer has drawn management’s attention to the fact that the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak introduces significant uncertainty in relation to many factors that have historically acted as drivers for property market activity. Whilst value movements will most likely be negative on Market Value calculations, the valuers also suspect increasing build costs resulting from prevailing market restrictions (including movement of labour) will likely lead to increasing values of specialised assets valued under Depreciated Replacement Costs (DRC) over the coming period. This could affect the values attached to VMD’s valuation of the its specialised land and buildings as DRC is used as the valuation basis for over 95% of its land and buildings. Management acknowledges the uncertainty but considers that there is little or no empirical evidence available that there is an impact of COVID-19 on the build and labour costs. While this lack of evidence reduces the level of certainty that can be attached to such a valuation, management considers that the valuation provided is an appropriate basis on which to determine the fair value at he date of reporting.

Non-property assets costing £10,000 or more on a grouped or individual basis, where there is an expected useful economic life of more than one year, are carried in the Statement of Financial Position at fair value, using appropriate indices provided by the Office for National Statistics.

Losses on revaluation are charged to the Revaluation Reserve to the extent that gains have been recorded previously and otherwise to the Statement of Comprehensive Net Expenditure.

Intangible assets
Intangible assets are defined as identifiable non-monetary assets without physical substance. These comprise software licences and internally developed software, including assets under construction.

The agency holds various software licences, which were capitalised at purchase cost where this exceeded capitalisation thresholds. Such assets are only revalued where it is possible to obtain a reliable estimate of their market value.

Internally developed computer software includes capitalisation of internal IT employee costs on projects. The agency does not hold any intangible assets with an indefinite useful life. The capitalisation threshold is generally £10,000. When fully operational in the business, internally developed computer software is stated at the depreciated purchase cost.

Depreciation and amortisation
Depreciation and amortisation are provided at rates estimated to write-off the valuation of property, plant and equipment, software development and licences on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful life of the asset. Componentisation has been adopted for the VMD's freehold building asset, with each component capitalised and depreciated separately. Estimated useful lives, component values and residual values are revised annually.

Asset lives are normally within the following ranges:

Freehold land	Not depreciated
Freehold buildings	37 years (residual life)
Furniture, fittings and office equipment	15 years
IT Hardware	5 years
IT Software development and licences	5-10 years

Impairment
Impairments are recognised when the recoverable amount of non-current assets falls below their carrying amount. An impairment review is carried out on an annual basis.

Any permanent diminution in the value of an asset due to clear consumption of economic benefit or service potential is recognised in full as an impairment loss in the SoCNE. An amount up to the value of the impairment is transferred from the revaluation reserve (to the extent that a balance exists) to the General Fund for the individual asset concerned.

Downward revaluations, resulting from changes in market value, only result in impairment where the asset is revalued below its historical cost carrying amount. In these cases the accounting treatment is as for any other impairment, with amounts being firstly set against any accumulated balance in the revaluation reserve, and any amount in addition to this being recognised as impairment and recorded in the SoCNE.

Assets under construction
Assets under construction are shown at the accumulated cost with the depreciation commencing when the asset is completed and brought into service.

1.4 Research and development

Expenditure on R&D is treated as an operating cost in the year in which it is incurred and taken to the SoCNE.

1.5 Operating income

As a Gross Accounting Agency, activity for Defra is not invoiced or reported as income, but an authority to spend is delegated to the VMD along with deliverable objectives. The Net Parliamentary Funding is recorded as a movement in Taxpayers' Equity.

1.6 Revenue from contracts with customers

IFRS 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers is applied by HM Treasury in the Government Financial Reporting Manual (FReM) from 2018-19. IFRS 15 introduces a new five stage model for the recognition of revenue from contracts with customers replacing the previous IAS 18 Revenue. The core principle of IFRS 15 is that an entity recognises revenue to depict the transfer of services to customers in a way that reflects the consideration to which the entity expects to be entitled to in exchange for services.

A contract asset – is an entity's right to consideration in exchange for goods or services that the entity has transferred to a customer when that right is conditioned on something other than the passage of time (for example, the entity's future performance). A contract liability is an entity's obligation to transfer goods or services to a customer for which the entity has received consideration (or the amount is due) from the customer.

Revenue from contracts with customers comprises fees and charges for services provided to industry or contractually entitled income for services provided to market customers. This revenue is measured based on the consideration specified in a contract with a customer. The Agency recognises revenue from contracts with customers in accordance with the five-stage model set out in IFRS 15.

Details of Agency’s main performance obligations, how and when they are satisfied, and the determination of transaction prices, is detailed in Note 2.

1.7 Pensions

Pension benefits are provided through the civil service pension arrangements, full details of which can be found in the Remuneration Report.

Although the PCSPS and the CSOPS, known as alpha, are unfunded defined benefit schemes, in accordance with explicit requirements in the FReM, the VMD account for the schemes as if they were defined contribution plans. Costs of the elements are recognised on a systematic and rational basis over the period during which it benefits from employees’ services by payment to the schemes of amounts calculated on an accruing basis. Liability for payment of future benefits is a charge on the schemes. The PCSPS and alpha pension schemes undergo a reassessment of the contribution rates by the Government Actuary at four-yearly intervals. In respect of defined contribution schemes, the VMD recognises the contributions payable for the year.

1.8 Defra notional service recharges

Notional costs are amounts charged against the SoCNE by virtue of an interdepartmental non-cash adjustment via the General Fund, with Core Defra recording the associated credit. Defra corporate services recharges comprises Defra Digital Technical Solutions (DDTS), legal, human resources, estates, investigation and enforcement services.

1.9 Value Added Tax (VAT)

Most of the VMD's activities are outside the scope of VAT and, in general, output tax does not apply. Input VAT can be recovered on certain contracted-out services. Irrecoverable VAT is charged to the relevant expenditure category or, if appropriate, capitalised with additions to non-current assets. Where output tax is charged or input tax is recoverable, the amounts are stated net of VAT.

1.10 Apprenticeship Levy

The Apprenticeship Levy was introduced in April 2017, requiring employers with a pay bill of over £3 million each year to pay the levy. The expense element of the apprenticeship levy is recorded against social security costs, within the staff costs note. If bodies utilise the levy for training expense, a notional charge is recognised. The corresponding credit element is recorded against grant income. Amounts are recognised on an accruals basis.

1.11 Financial instruments

VMD holds few financial instruments. Financial assets comprise of receivables that are non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market. Receivables are initially recognised at fair value and subsequently held at amortised cost after an appropriate provision for expected credit loss. Financial liabilities comprise trade and other payables, and other financial liabilities. They are initially recognised at the fair value of consideration received, less directly attributable transaction costs. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost.

1.12 Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash in hand and current balances with banks.

1.13 General Fund

The net operating result for each year is transferred from the SoCNE to the General Fund. The General Fund represents the value of the VMD's net assets less liabilities as at 1 April 1991, which is the date from which the first Accounts Direction became effective, plus subsequent external funding movements, plus the accumulated net operating result transferred from the SoCNE.

1.14 Revaluation Reserve

The Revaluation Reserve represents the unrealised cumulative balance of indexation and revaluation adjustments to non-current assets.

1.15 Leases

All payments under operating leases are charged to the SoCNE. An operating lease is a lease other than a finance lease. A finance lease is one which transfers substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership to the lessee. The Agency does not have any finance leases.

1.16 Impending application of newly issued standards not yet effective

IAS 8, Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors, requires disclosures in respect of new IFRSs, amendments and interpretations that are, or will be applicable after the reporting period. There are a number of IFRSs, amendments and interpretations that have been issued by the International Accounting Standards Board that are effective for future reporting periods. Those with relevance to the Agency are outlined below. The Agency has not adopted any new IFRS standards early.

HM Treasury have agreed implementation of IFRS 16 ‘Leases’ will be deferred for central government and will be generally effective from 1 April 2021. IFRS 16 results in lessees accounting for most leases within the scope of the standard in a manner similar to the way in which finance leases are currently accounted for under IAS 17 ‘Leases’. Lessees will recognise a right of use (‘ROU’) asset and a corresponding financial liability on the balance sheet. The asset will be amortised over the length of the lease, and the financial liability measured at amortised cost. Lessor accounting remains substantially the same as under IAS 17. The Agency expects to adopt the standard using a modified retrospective approach where the cumulative effect of initially applying it is recognised as an adjustment to the opening balance of retained earnings and comparatives are not restated.

The Agency will apply this standard upon formal adoption in the FReM. It is not anticipated that material adjustments to the financial statements will be required following the introduction of the standard.

2. Operating income

	2019/20	2018/19
	£'000	£'000
Revenue from contracts with customers:		
Veterinary pharmaceutical industry:		
Authorisations	2,372	3,238
Graded annual and fixed fees	3,026	3,058
Inspections	1,068	1,030
Food industry	3,798	3,577
International	267	600
Other Income		
Government: Devolved Administrations (1)	88	83
Government: EU Grant (1)	61	16
Government: AMR Reference Centre (1)	310	-
Recoveries in respect of outward secondments	239	216
Other recovery of cost (2)	9	11
	11,238	**11,829**

(1) Income for work undertaken for Government comprise of: contributions from Devolved Administrations £88,000 (2018/19: £83,000); receipt of EU grant paid in support of the AMR programme £61,000 (2018/19: £16,000) and utilisation of grants from the Fleming Fund in support of the AMR Reference Centre £310,000.

(2) Other recovery of costs includes the UK training delivered by VMD.

Transaction price to remaining performance obligations

The following table includes revenue expected to be recognised in the future related to performance obligations that are (partially) unsatisfied at the reporting date:

	2020/21	2021/22	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Authorisations	575	133	708
Inspections	147	-	147
International	498	-	498
Total	**1,220**	**133**	**1,353**

As at 31 March 2020, the aggregate amount of the transaction price allocated to the remaining performance obligation is £1.512 million and the entity will recognise this revenue as contracts are progressed to completion, which is expected to occur over the next 12–18 months.

	2019/20	2018/19
	£'000	£'000
Contract Assets	957	968
Contract Liabilities	1,353	1,362

Revenue recognised in the period from:	(1)
Amounts recognised in the contract liability at the beginning of the period:	
Authorisations	833
Inspections	147
International	274

(1) Prior year comparatives are not shown in the table above as first year adoption for IFRS15 was 2018/19.

The VMD's major type of income streams are detailed in the table below:

Contract Type	Amount £000	Categories of performance obligation	Basis of income recognition
AUTHORISATIONS			
Application for a Marketing Authorisation	2,047	Assessment of application to market a veterinary medicines product	Invoiced on validation of an application. Income deferred and recognised on basis of the level of completion of an assessment to the date when the application is determined
Graded Annual and fixed fees	3,026	Provision of services as the competent authority, including post authorisation surveillance/pharmacovigilance	Charge based on cost recovery for the financial year. Invoiced in last quarter of each financial year
INSPECTIONS			
Inspections	638	Inspection of manufacturers, wholesaler dealers, retailers of veterinary medicines	Invoiced upon completion of the inspection report
Annual fees	336	Licencing and maintenance of the register of manufacturers, wholesaler dealers, retailers of veterinary medicines	Income recognised over a year. Accrued for any non-invoiced element or deferred proportionate to the number of months before the next renewal date
FOOD INDUSTRY			
Food Industry fees	3,798	Provision of the Statutory Residues Surveillance Programme	Charge based on cost recovery for the financial year. Invoiced quarterly or bi-annually or accrued for any non-invoiced elements
INTERNATIONAL			
International	267	Set out in individual contracts for services and/or provision of training	At agreed milestones, or if, as is generally the case, contract stipulates that money spent up to a specific date can be recovered from the customer prior to completion of the project

1. This analysis reflects the major types of income streams and are a component of the figures disclosed above in Note 2 Revenue from contracts with customers.

3. Staff costs

Staff costs consist of the following:	2019/20			2018/19
	Permanently employed staff	**Temporary staff**	**Total**	**Total**
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Wages and salaries	6,731	618	7,349	6,802
Social security costs	711	-	711	704
Other pension costs	1,761	-	1,761	1,297
	9,203	**618**	**9,821**	**8,803**
Less amounts charged to capital projects	(256)	-	(256)	-
Sub-total as reported in the SoCNE	**8,947**	**618**	**9,565**	**8,803**
Less recoveries in respect of outward secondments	(239)	-	(239)	(216)
	8,708	**618**	**9,326**	**8,587**

Included in the permanently-employed staff costs is an accrual for untaken annual leave of £252,000, (2018/19: £287,000).

4. Other non-staff operating expenditure

	Note	2019/20 £'000	2018/19 £'000
(i) Purchase of services			
Statutory Residues Surveillance		3,385	3,222
Research and Development Programme		1,222	864
Antimicrobial Resistance Programme and Surveillance		568	536
Antimicrobial Resistance Reference Centre		495	220
Other direct sub-contracted services		52	68
		5,722	**4,910**
(ii) Non-cash items			
Depreciation of property, plant and equipment	*5*	343	325
Amortisation of intangible assets	*6*	269	29
Loss on disposal of non-current assets	*5&6*	1	-
Defra service recharges:			
DDTS		1,202	1,255
Estates maintenance		349	339
Human resources		110	111
Defra Investigation Services		115	129
Legal services		92	39
Auditors' remuneration (1)		45	45
		2,526	**2,272**
(iii) Other operational expenditure			
Professional, programme and technical fees		1,448	1,453
IT systems maintenance		494	453
Travel and subsistence		398	492
Training		80	105
Staff related costs		45	31
Communications		108	80
Office related goods and services		191	86
Operating leases		37	36
Internal Audit		38	60
Stationery and publications		35	35
Independent expert committees		23	24
Customer relations and publicity		24	32
Movement on provision for expected credit loss		81	28
Other costs		15	12
		3,017	**2,927**
Total non-staff operating expenditure		**11,265**	**10,109**

(1) No remuneration was paid to the external auditors (National Audit Office) in respect of non-audit work.

5. Property, plant and equipment

	Land	Buildings	Information Technology	Furniture & Fittings	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Cost or Valuation:					
At 1 April 2019	316	5,996	772	252	7,336
Additions	-	-	65	110	175
Disposals	-	-	(167)	(24)	(191)
Revaluation	-	(383)	5	(3)	(381)
At 31 March 2020	**316**	**5,613**	**675**	**335**	**6,939**
Depreciation:					
At 1 April 2019	-	-	(668)	(241)	(909)
Charged in year	-	(306)	(31)	(6)	(343)
Disposals	-	-	167	23	190
Revaluation	-	306	(4)	1	303
At 31 March 2020	**-**	**-**	**(536)**	**(223)**	**(759)**
Carrying Value					
At 31 March 2020	**316**	**5,613**	**139**	**112**	**6,180**
Cost or Valuation:					
At 1 April 2018	316	5,728	791	259	7,094
Additions	-	-	43	-	43
Disposals	-	-	(66)	(7)	(73)
Revaluation	-	268	4	-	272
At 31 March 2019	**316**	**5,996**	**772**	**252**	**7,336**
Depreciation:					
At 1 April 2018	-	-	(685)	(244)	(929)
Charged in year	-	(275)	(46)	(4)	(325)
Disposals	-	-	66	7	73
Revaluation	-	275	(3)	-	272
At 31 March 2019	**-**	**-**	**(668)**	**(241)**	**(909)**
Carrying Value					
At 31 March 2019	**316**	**5,996**	**104**	**11**	**6,427**
At 31 March 2018	316	5,728	106	15	6,165

Montagu Evans undertook the quinquennial valuation of land and buildings during the year ended 31 March 2020. This resulted in Land and Buildings being valued at £5,934k at 31 March 2020, a net decrease from 2018/19 of £383k.

This revaluation was carried out using the depreciated replacement cost method, taking into account the expected construction costs to rebuild equivalent assets. This review also considers the remaining economic life of the buildings. All of VMD's assets are owned and none are held under finance leases.

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, as per RICS guidance the valuation includes a Material Valuation Uncertainty Clause. It advises DEFRA bodies that "less certainty and a higher degree of caution should be attached to valuation than would normally be the case". However, for the avoidance of doubt, the inclusion of the 'material valuation uncertainty' declaration does not mean that the valuation cannot be relied upon. As such the valuation can still be relied upon to provide the fair value of the land and buildings, based on the best information available at the present time.

6. Intangible assets

	IT Internally Generated Software	IT Internally Generated Software AUC*	IT Software and licences	TOTAL
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Cost or valuation:				
At 1 April 2019	-	-	778	778
Additions	-	2,634	63	2,697
Transfer	2,366	-	-	2,366
Disposals	-	-	-	-
At 31 March 2020	**2,366**	**2,634**	**841**	**5,841**
Amortisation:				
At 1 April 2019	-	-	(637)	(637)
Charged in year	(237)	-	(32)	(269)
Disposals	-	-	-	-
At 31 March 2020	**(237)**	**-**	**(669)**	**(906)**
Carrying Value				
At 31 March 2020	**2,129**	**2,634**	**172**	**4,935**
Cost or valuation:				
At 1 April 2018	-	-	678	678
Additions	-	-	100	100
Disposals	-	-	-	-
At 31 March 2019	**-**	**-**	**778**	**778**
Amortisation:				
At 1 April 2018	-	-	(608)	(608)
Charged in year	-	-	(29)	(29)
Disposals	-	-	-	-
At 31 March 2019	**-**	**-**	**(637)**	**(637)**
Carrying Value				
At 31 March 2019	**-**	**-**	**141**	**141**
At 31 March 2018	-	-	70	70

*AUC – assets under construction.

The net book value for internally generated software includes IT solutions developed to replace EU systems that have ceased to be available upon leaving the EU. These include: Registration and Login; Licencing; Adverse Event Reporting; Service Hub; Secure Messaging; Cloud Infrastructure and Special Imports.

The Adverse Event Reporting system was brought into use in April 2019 and has a remaining amortisation period of nine years.

Cash additions (adjusted for capital accruals) shown in the SoCF amount to £2,699,000 (2018/19 £97,000).

7. Trade receivables and other current assets

	31 March 2020	31 March 2019
	£’000	£’000
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade receivables	1,059	3,686
Other receivables	18	24
VAT recoverable	270	349
Prepayments	196	156
Accrued Income	-	13
Contract Assets	957	968
Total trade receivables and other current assets	**2,500**	**5,196**

Trade receivables are shown net of a provision of £128,500 (2018/19: £52,000) for expected credit loss. The provision is calculated according to the age and status of the debt and recent sector-specific debt-recovery information, including the estimated impacts arising from COVID 19 and industry’s ability to pay fees and charges due.

8. Cash and cash equivalents

	2019/20	2018/19
	£’000	£’000
Balance at 1 April	1,907	5,635
Net change in cash and cash equivalents	1,984	(3,728)
Balance at 31 March	**3,891**	**1,907**

All balances were held in accounts administered by Government Banking Services.

9. Trade payables and other current liabilities

	31 March 2020	31 March 2019
	£’000	£’000
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade payables	4	258
Other taxation and social security	218	223
Accruals(1)	2,180	1,986
Contract liabilities	1,220	1,212
Total trade payables and other current liabilities	**3,622**	**3,679**
Amounts falling due after more than one year:		
Contract liabilities	133	150
Total trade payables and other liabilities	**3,755**	**3,829**

At the year end the VMD had contract liabilities (£133,000) falling due after more than one year (2018/19: £150,000).

(1) The 31 March 2019 accruals figure has been restated to include balances with other central government bodies, these were separately disclosed in the prior year.

10. Capital commitments

There were no contracted commitments at 31 March 2020 (2018/19: nil).

11. Commitments under operating leases

Total future minimum lease payments under operating leases are given in the table below for each of the following periods:

Obligations under operating leases comprise:

	2019/20	2018/19
	£'000	£'000
Contract hire cars		
Not later than one year	33	34
Later than one year not later than five years	47	65
Total	80	99

12. Other financial commitments

Defra has entered into a contract (which is not a lease or Public Finance Initiative contract) for Estate Maintenance and Facilities Management services associated with buildings that are either leased by Defra or held on the Agency's Statement of Financial Position. The Agency incurs a charge proportionate to the benefit it receives from this contract. Based on Defra's estimate, the payments to which the Agency is committed at the year end, analysed by the period during which the commitment expires are as follows:

	2019/20	2018/19
	£'000	£'000
Not later than one year	187	154
Later than one year but not later than five years	562	617
Later than five years but not later than ten years	-	1
Total	**749**	**772**

13. Related party transactions

As the VMD is an Executive Agency of Defra, Defra is regarded as a related party. During the year, the VMD has had significant transactions with Defra and several of its agencies, including the Animal and Plant Health Agency.

The VMD has transacted with various other central government bodies. Most of these transactions have been with the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency, Food Standards Agency and The Scottish Government.

None of the Board members, key managerial staff or other related parties has undertaken any material transactions with the VMD during the year other than salaries and reimbursement for travel and subsistence in the normal course of business.

14. Financial instruments

As the cash requirements of the VMD are met from income from industry and funding through the Estimates process, financial instruments play a more limited role in creating and managing risk than would apply to a non-public sector body of a similar size. The majority of financial instruments relate to contracts to buy non-financial items in line with the Agency's expected purchase and usage requirements and the Agency is therefore exposed to little credit, liquidity or market risk.

15. Events after the reporting period

The VMD's financial statements are laid before the House of Parliament by the Secretary of State for Defra. In accordance with the requirements of IAS 10, events after the reporting period are considered up to the date on which the Accounts are authorised for issue. This is interpreted as the date of the Certificate and Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General.

Up to the date of issue, there have been no other events since 31 March 2020 that would have a significant impact on the Annual Report and Accounts or would be likely to have a significant impact on the future performance of the VMD. However, the continued implications of the Covid-19 pandemic will have an impact on the VMD and the way we work. This is having greatest impact on the inspections regime, where for the first quarter 2020/21 the face to face visits remained suspended. The VMD conducted a limited number of desktop assessments. The VMD has transitioned successfully to full remote working and continues to find ways to make this change as effective and efficient as possible. It is anticipated that there will be an impact on the various VMD stakeholders and customers, and we are working with them to understand and mitigate the implications for both parties.

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