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To: [VetsMI](#)
Subject: RESPONSE TO ISSUES STATEMENT
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thank you for the investigation so far . i wish to make a few observations

1 With relation to Practise regulation and the PRACTISE STANDARDS SCHEME. the figures show 69 percent of practises currently signed up . I feel it is very important to understand why the other 30 percent are not signed up and who they are and what they offer the market. i highly suspect that these are predominantly independent , small practises with only a few staff and only supplying a very local service to the

"lower" end of the market providing a level of affordability those in the signed up 69 percent don't. for large practises and groups with a backroom and centralised admin service meeting the practise standard scheme requirements and going through the inspections is feasible and easy , in small practise with only a few frontline staff who are also the backroom staff getting time away from frontline activities and providing 24 7 care the ability to handle the practise standard scheme is impossible. i would also suspect that those not in the scheme tend to be older more experienced vets . i would suspect that some of the costs associated with the practise standard scheme in both admin and the increased standards of care it enforces will result in 2 things . Those who sign up will simply become suppliers to a higher end market, many like me will chose not to sign up and retire close possibly locum a little . i suspect that the majority of the currently un signed up are older , more neuro diverse and committed to an older more inclusive form of veterinary supply .

2 with relation to regulation in general the CMA investigation so far has emboldened the royal college to put in motion plans to greatly gold plate standards and increase the workload of regulation . again for all teh reasons above this will reduce those willing and able to service the affordable end of the market. it is unrealistic to expect no regulation but i feel that it is very necessary for any new regulation to come with responsibilities in terms of impact assessments on both market supply , affordability and impact on the workforce.

3 since the CMA investigation process has began significant local changes which appear to be occurring regionally have accelerated . Supply of ooh services to small animal has been dropped by [REDACTED] , [REDACTED] has stopped supplying ooh services after 10pm, [REDACTED] has essentially closed now only being a branch open a few hours per week with ooh being removed many miles away. All surrounding practises have reduced the amount they supply to the market all offering fewer opening hours opening only a few days per week and or reducing the number of appointments offered per day , we are finding that when practises have staff on holidays they simply don't offer appointments. the major corporates around us all have programs now of reducing staff and supply with redundancy rationalisation and closures greatly reducing supply and amplifying issues. this is impacting us and the local market significantly in a new way

4 with regard to prescriptions when i write a prescription i am taking on a professional responsibility to provide 24 7 back up if anything should occur that may or might not be due that medication . providing that obligatory back up is incredibly expensive . The online pharmacy has no such responsibility or cost comparing prices in this way is unfair. similarly if the a local corporate branch writes a prescription they are not actually going to supply the ooh back up they are going to divest this responsibility to some far away ooh centre that is both geographically and financially out of reach of 90 percent at least of those who avail of the service.