



Veterinary Products Committee

PUBLISHED MINUTES

A summary of the minutes of the Veterinary Products Committee Meeting held on 24 October 2024 at the VMD, Woodham Lane, New Haw, Addlestone, Surrey.

Chair – Helen Ballantyne PGDip BSc (Hons) RN RVN
Secretary – Chris Abbott

Members

Dr M Bowen
Mr B Buckle
Dr Y Chang
Prof M Clark
Prof K Ganapathy
Mr M Jelley
Mrs F Kidd
Prof D Killick
Dr D Mackay
Mr R Soutar
Prof J Statham
Ms A Tarr
Mr E Vega
Mr M White

Officials: may be present for all or part of the meeting or for specific agenda items.

VMD

Dr G Clarke
Dr V Herbert
Dr B Berrocal-Gonzalez
Dr R Cooney
Dr C Stratford
Mr B Corbett

Apologies

Dr D Bartley
Dr R Bennett
Prof J Weeks

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1. Announcements and apologies for absence
2. Declaration of interests
3. Minutes of the meeting held on 23 May 2024
4. Matters arising from the minutes
 - 4.1. Guest speakers
5. Oral Appeal for an application: ref no. 00831/2024
6. UK Pharmacovigilance Report for April to July 2024
7. Evaluation of VMD assessment reports: Selection
8. Special Imports
9. Essential substances for equines
10. Legislation update
11. Vaccine availability
12. Horizon scanning
13. Items for information
14. Any other business
 - 14.1. Annual return of members' interests
15. Date of next meeting

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1. **Announcements and apologies for absence**

- 1.1. The Chair reminded members and officials that all papers, unless otherwise indicated, and discussions of the committee are confidential. No information relating to the proceedings of the committee or papers presented to the committee may be divulged to any third party.
- 1.2. Apologies for absence had been received from Dr Bartley, Dr Bennett and Professor Weeks.

2. **Declaration of interests**

- 2.1. The Chair reminded members of the procedure for declaring interests at VPC meetings. Interests declared were minuted under the individual items.

3. **Minutes of the meeting held on 23 May 2024**

- 3.1. The committee has cleared the minutes of the May meeting by correspondence and the Summary minutes were available on the VPC website ([Veterinary Products Committee - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/veterinary-products-committee)).

4. **Matters arising from the minutes**

4.1. **Minute 6.2.2 and 13.1: Guest Speakers**

- 4.1.1 The talks on sustainability in veterinary medicine and from the Defra Exotics Group were postponed until a future meeting.
- 4.1.2 It was agreed to invite a company to speak to the committee about their proposal for a new technology for regulating online prescribing.

5. **Oral Appeal for an application: ref no. 00831/2024**

- 5.1. The Committee considered an oral hearing relating to an application for a marketing authorisation.
- 5.2. One Member declared a non-personal non-specific interest.
- 5.3. The Committee gave its advice to the VMD.

6. **The UK Pharmacovigilance report**

- 6.1. The Committee considered the Pharmacovigilance Report for April to July 2024 which was presented by the Head of the VMD's Pharmacovigilance Team.

7. **Evaluation of VMD assessment reports: Selection**

- 7.1. For the VPC's annual exercise to evaluate VMD assessments, members were asked to select four marketing authorisation applications where the VMD has led and completed the initial assessment in the 12 months leading up to the end of August 2024. They selected three pharmaceutical products and one biological product from the list provided.
- 7.2. The assessment reports for the selected products would be sent to members by 31 October for them to evaluate against the specified criteria. Members were asked to submit their evaluations to the secretariat by 24 January so they could be presented to the committee for discussion at its meeting in February.

8. **Special Imports**

- 8.1. The reports on Special Imports were noted.

9. **Essential substances for equines**

- 9.1. A member brought to the committee's attention an updated list of essential substances for equines which has been published by the European Medicines Agency for EU members. Some substances have been removed from, and some substances added to, the previous

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list which is used by GB under its legislation. The member would provide VMD with information on the changes and their significance.

10. **Legislation update**

10.1. A member noted that the British Veterinary Poultry Association has raised questions about changes to the cascade and withdrawal periods under the revised Veterinary Medicines Regulations and VMD officials confirmed they would be able to provide clarification.

11. **Vaccine availability**

11.1. Members noted the pressures on vaccine availability and the risk of some diseases re-emerging. The VMD highlighted that there are contingency measures in place to deal with issues in the short-term, and that there is work underway seeking to address vaccine availability issues in the longer-term. These include work that is a priority for the new Government, including engineering biology.

12. **Horizon Scanning**

12.1. Members proposed several topics for future discussion, including clarification on what makes a substance or product a medicine and what residues surveillance programmes which are now in place. VMD would provide information on these topics for the next meeting to help inform discussion.

13. **Items for information**

13.1. The following items for information are publicly available:

13.1.1 The Veterinary Medicines Directorate Product Information Database (<http://www.vmd.defra.gov.uk/ProductInformationDatabase/>).

13.2. The following items for information are not publicly available:

13.2.1 Report to the VPC on new MA applications granted.

13.2.2 Report from the Scientific Secretariat and the Biological Committee.

13.2.3 Report to the VPC on new ATC applications.

13.2.3.1. VMD would provide clarification on the information it provides on ATCs.

13.2.4 Dates for VPC meetings in 2025.

13.3. VMD will provide a list of acronyms for information.

14. **Any other business**

14.1. There were no matters arising.

15. **Date of next meeting**

15.1. The next meeting of the VPC will be on 13 February 2025 at the VMD, Woodham Lane, New Haw, Addlestone, Surrey.