

BULLETIN UPDATE #1

Pharmaceuticals in the Environment (PiE) Group Meeting

Wednesday 26 July 10:00-12:00 via Microsoft Teams

Minutes

Present:

Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD)
Environment Agency (EA)
Health and Safety Executive (HSE)
Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)
Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA)
Natural Resources Wales/Welsh Government (NRW/WG)
Northern Ireland Environment Agency/Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (NIEA/DAERA)
Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)

1. Welcome and introductions

The Chair welcomed attendees and noted apologies.

2. Actions from April 2023 PiE meeting

The PiE Group (the “Group”) reviewed the actions from the last meeting.

Matters arising:

- i. Scope of PiE membership
- ii. Potential interactions with stakeholders

The Group agreed to publish summary minutes of the meetings for stakeholders.

3. Current situation and evidence gaps: Fipronil and imidacloprid in UK surface waters

A representative from each member organisation provided an overview of their perspective on the current situation regarding fipronil and imidacloprid in the environment, associated evidence gaps and proposed future directions for the Group. This was followed by Group discussion.

There was some discussion around the potential development of an exposure model for companion animal spot-on products and considerations regarding a strategy for adoption of these principles.

There was agreement that there would be an advantage in mapping use patterns to understand usage of these substances across different market sectors to inform regulatory changes to help address the problem statement in totality. Understanding the contributions from authorised products could be useful to help inform future strategy and associated actions for reducing levels of fipronil and imidacloprid in UK surface waters.

There was some discussion around possible communication strategies to encourage reduced use of products containing fipronil and imidacloprid. The success of other stewardship initiatives in encouraging reduced use and determining evidence-based best practice was recognised.

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It would be useful to collate evidence, data and information gaps identified by the Group to provide a route to approach stakeholders to fill these gaps in terms of data held elsewhere and to understand whether research is ongoing in this area.

4. Next steps: Fipronil and imidacloprid in UK surface waters

The Group agreed to use the existing meetings at an increased frequency to discuss the issue of fipronil and imidacloprid.

5. Other priorities

A prioritisation exercise for future substances of concern could be useful. Outcomes of the prioritisation exercise could be raised at future meetings for the Group to cascade and address, as appropriate. Improving advice on the disposal of veterinary medicines was highlighted as another priority.

6. AOB

Group members should e-mail the Secretariat for the collation of meeting papers for the next agenda. Data received from wider stakeholders to be included in the meeting papers can also be sent to the Secretariat (either via the Group member or direct from stakeholders).

Date of next meeting: circa October 2023