



# Veterinary Products Committee

## **PUBLISHED MINUTES**

**A summary of the minutes of the Veterinary Products Committee Meeting held on 23 October 2025 at the VMD, Woodham Lane, New Haw, Addlestone, Surrey.**

Chair – Helen Ballantyne

Secretary – Chris Abbott

### Members

Dr D Bartley  
Dr R Bennett  
Dr M Bowen  
Mr B Buckle  
Dr Y Chang  
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  
Prof J Weeks

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

### VMD

Mr G Hall  
Dr B Berrocal-Gonzalez  
Dr G Paiba  
Dr G Clarke  
Dr R Cooney  
Dr M Tejero  
Dr B Santa-Olalla  
Ms F Fernandez

### Apologies

Prof M Clark  
Mr M White

## **Published minutes**

1. Announcements and apologies for absence
2. Declaration of interests
3. Minutes of the meeting held on 12 June 2025
4. Matters arising from the minutes
  - 4.1. Updates on residues surveillance and SPC requirements
5. Written/oral Appeal
6. Consideration of an application: ref no. 04240/2024
7. UK Pharmacovigilance Report for April to July 2025
8. Evaluation of VMD assessment reports: Selection
9. Special Imports
10. Horizon scanning proposal
11. Legislation update
12. PiE regulatory activities
13. Items for information
14. Any other business
15. Date of next meeting

## Published minutes

### 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 Professor Clark and Mr White.

### 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 12 June 2025**

- 3.1. The committee had cleared the minutes of the June 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 4.2.1 and 11.1: VMD updates**

- 4.1.1 VMD updates on SPC requirements and residues surveillance were postponed until the next meeting.

#### 4.2. **Minute 14.2: Horizon scanning**

- 4.2.1 Professor Weeks presented a proposal for a new approach to horizon scanning under item 10.

### 5. **Written/Oral Appeal for a product**

- 5.1. The Committee reviewed written evidence before an oral appeal hearing took place for a pharmaceutical product.
- 5.2. One Member declared a non-personal non-specific interest.
- 5.3. The Committee made its recommendation to the VMD.

### 6. **Consideration of an application: ref no. 04240/2024**

- 6.1. The Committee examined evidence relating to an application for a variation to change the legal distribution category for a product and provided its advice to the VMD.
- 6.2. No interests were declared.
- 6.3. The Committee provided advice for consideration by the VMD.

### 7. **The UK Pharmacovigilance report**

#### 7.1. **Introduction**

- 7.1.1 The Committee considered and commented upon the Pharmacovigilance Report for April to July 2025, which was presented by the deputy head of the VMD's Pharmacovigilance Team.
- 7.1.2 In deference to the observers present in the meeting and not familiar with the Pharmacovigilance Report, the presenter explained the structure of the current report.
- 7.1.3 Signals detected by the team and received from MAHs were summarised and team offered for questions to be received after the meeting for specific products.

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### **7.2. Suspected adverse event reports in humans**

- 7.2.1 All incidents received for the reporting period were included in the report.
- 7.2.2 Following VPC recommendations from a previous meeting, a collaborative R&D study re: needlestick injuries and the veterinary profession has been approved by VMD and Defra R&D for this financial year.

### **7.3. Suspected adverse event reports in animals**

- 7.3.1 Details of trends and signals assessed were summarised.
- 7.3.2 Assessment of a benefit:risk report and regulatory outcome presented.
- 7.3.3 List of current deep-dives shared with the committee, call for suggestions from VPC members to include other products.

### **7.4. Environmental incidents**

- 7.4.1 All incidents received for the reporting period were included in the report. The team confirmed that one report could be caused by a product defect and had been put into continuous monitoring. If further reports were to be received, the team will liaise with the VMD Product Defects Team to liaise with the MAH.

## **8. Evaluation of VMD assessment reports: Selection**

- 8.1. 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 2025. They selected three pharmaceutical products and one biological product from the list provided.
- 8.2. 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 26 January so they could be presented to the Committee for discussion at the February meeting.

## **9. Special Imports**

- 9.1. The reports on special imports were noted.

## **10. Horizon scanning proposal**

- 10.1. Professor Weeks gave a presentation on alternative ways for the Committee to carry out horizon scanning. He noted that effective scanning reviews a broad spectrum of information to identify future emerging risks, opportunities or trends. This can then be used as a source of evidence and intelligence to facilitate strategic discussions about long term planning. Different methods and tools for achieving this can be used and tailored to the needs of committees. AI is an important element as it can continuously scan different sources and gather relevant information on key drivers. This information then needs to be sorted and prioritised by expert decision makers. The amount of resource and time available needs to be taken into account when forming a new horizon scanning method. The Government Futures Network can help develop systematic approaches to thinking about the future.
- 10.2. Professor Weeks' proposals were noted with interest by the Committee and would be considered further.

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### 11. Legislation update

- 11.1. The Medicines and Medical Devices Act (MMDA) covers human and veterinary medicines and human medical devices and provides the primary powers for the Veterinary Medicines Regulations 2013 (VMR) which allows VMD to amend and supplement the VMR. The Act requires that the operation and impact of the legislation is assessed every 5 years in a report to Parliament; this is led by DHSC. To evidence this assessment, VMD ran a call for evidence in September asking stakeholders to respond to a list of questions and will publish a government response in due course.
- 11.2. Work is continuing to prepare for negotiations with the EU to develop an SPS agreement. It is likely that residues and MRLs will be in scope.

### 12. Update on PiE regulatory activities

- 12.1. VMD gave an update on the work of the Pharmaceuticals in the Environment (PiE) Group. In July the Group published its road map which serves as a strategic framework for cross-government and cross-sector efforts to address pharmaceuticals in the environment, including activities to address the levels of fipronil and imidacloprid detected in UK waterways. These activities include research using appropriate exposure models to strengthen the evidence base in an effort to fill evidence gaps and better understand the broader impact. All potential sources are being investigated, including the effects of veterinary medicines through waste water and direct contact from dogs treated with parasiticides. VMD also supports the work the EU is carrying out in this area.

### 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
  - 13.2.4 VPC meeting dates for 2026

### 14. Any other business

#### 14.1. Annual declaration of members' interests

- 14.1.1 Members were asked to complete and return their annual declaration of interests forms to the Secretary by 31 October.
- 14.1.2 The following Members will be leaving the Committee at the end of this year having completed two terms: Dr Yu-Mei Ruby Chang, Andrea Tarr, Dr Rachel Bennett, Enrique Vega and Mark White. The Chair thanked them for their valuable contributions to the work of the Committee and this was endorsed by VMD officials.

### 15. Date of next meeting

- 15.1. The next meeting of the VPC will be on 12 February 2026 at the VMD, Woodham Lane, New Haw, Addlestone, Surrey.