

Dear Sir or Madam,

On behalf of the National Office of Animal Health (NOAH), we would like to thank the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) for the opportunity to comment on its latest provisional decision report. We have carefully reviewed the sections relevant to veterinary medicines and feel it is appropriate to confine our remarks to these particular points, as they most closely align with our expertise and remit.

We are pleased to note that the CMA has decided to keep a review of the veterinary cascade system outside the scope of this investigation. The cascade system serves as a vital regulatory safeguard, allowing veterinary surgeons the flexibility to prescribe medicines in the best interests of animal health and welfare. Moreover, the stability and predictability of the regulatory environment afforded by the cascade system are important for public and animal owner confidence in the responsible use of veterinary medicines. An environment that supports innovation within the animal health industry is also crucial, and the cascade system plays a key role in enabling the development and introduction of new therapies that benefit both animals and society.

In addition, we wish to highlight the importance of a well-functioning pharmacovigilance (PV) system within the animal medicines sector. Such a system is essential to ensure that all market participants adhere to the same safety and reporting standards, thereby safeguarding animal health and welfare as well as public confidence. The ongoing monitoring and transparent reporting of adverse events underpin the responsible use of veterinary medicines and support a culture of continuous improvement within the industry.

We welcome the CMA's recognition of these issues and respectfully urge that the current status of the cascade system be maintained in future considerations. A stable regulatory framework is indispensable for ongoing innovation, investment and ability of veterinary professionals to meet the diverse health and welfare needs of animals throughout the UK.

Thank you once again for inviting our comments. NOAH remains committed to constructive engagement with the CMA and to supporting the ongoing evolution and improvement of the veterinary medicines sector.

Yours faithfully,



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