

Sensitivity: Official

PUBLISHED MINUTES

A summary of the minutes of the Veterinary Products Committee Meeting held on 4 June 2026 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
Dr Y Chang
Prof M Clark
Prof K Ganapathy
Dr M Hawes
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
Mr M White

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

VMD

Mr G Hall
Dr G Clarke
Dr H Swift
Dr B Berrocal-Gonzalez
Dr M Tejero

Apologies

Mr B Buckle

Published minutes

1. Announcements and apologies for absence
2. Declaration of interests
3. Minutes of the meeting held on 4 June 2026
4. Matters arising from the minutes
 - 4.1. Appeal update
5. Consideration of an application: ref no. 03994/2025
6. Pharmacovigilance Report for December to May 2026
7. Evaluation of VMD assessment reports
8. Special Imports
9. Legislation update
10. Horizon scanning
11. Items for information
12. Any other business
13. 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 Mr Buckle.

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 February 2026**

- 3.1. The committee had cleared the minutes of the February 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)).

4. **Matters arising from the minutes**

- 4.1. Appeal update.
 - 4.1.1 Members received an update on the outcome of an appeal the Committee had previously considered.

5. **Consideration of an application: ref no. 03994/2025**

- 5.1. The Committee examined evidence relating to an application for a change to distribution category for a product.
- 5.2. The Committee provided advice for consideration by the VMD.

6. **The UK Pharmacovigilance Reports for December to May 2026**

6.1. **Introduction**

- 6.1.1 The Committee had received as part of the distribution pre-meeting the Pharmacovigilance Report for December 2025 to April 2026. No comments or questions were received before the meeting or presented on the day of the meeting. The team offered members to send questions following the meeting.
- 6.1.2 The presentation focused on team activities since last meeting and future plans, including not strictly business as usual activities like R&D collaborations, and training to strengthen regulatory capacity in low and medium countries.

6.2. **Suspected adverse event reports in humans**

- 6.2.1 Human adverse event reports were included in the presentation that was circulated to Members (up to date to 14th May 2026).

6.3. **Suspected adverse event reports in animals**

- 6.3.1 Signals assessed and consequent regulatory action were included in the presentation that was circulated to Members (up to date to 2026).

6.4. **Environmental incidents**

- 6.4.1 There were no environmental incidents presented. The team has agreed that a quarterly report from SASA Wildlife Incidents Investigation Section (Scotland) will be received in the future.

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7. **Evaluation of VMD assessment reports**

- 7.1. VMD assessors had provided responses to comments made by Members during last year's annual exercise to evaluate VMD assessment reports.
- 7.2. This year's exercise is due to start in October and Members were asked to review the process and propose any improvements which could be made. It was agreed that, although participation should remain voluntary, the process could be formalised so that participation is increased and it is clear which members have been assigned to look at the different aspects of products. The Secretariat will provide a form to enable this at the next meeting. The scoring system, which is already set for this year, can also be reconsidered for next year.

8. **Special Imports**

- 8.1. There were no comments on the Special Import reports.

9. **Legislation update**

- 9.1. The SI for fees for the residues surveillance programme is expected to be laid in October/November. The SI to bring Northern Ireland veterinary medicines legislation in line with EU regulations is expected to come into effect by early 2027. Meetings with Defra are ongoing about the Veterinary Surgeons Act review and the CMA's recommendations for the veterinary sector. A Member reported that new Commission guidance issued for Article 106 of 2019/6 on limiting dosage variation to the amount authorised for a product will result in underdosing for some drugs.
- 9.2. VMD agreed to give an update on legislation issues such as the review of the Veterinary Surgeons Act and the implications of the CMA recommendations for medicines at the next meeting.

10. **Horizon scanning**

- 10.1. VMD noted that the use of new AI technologies by the veterinary profession is not currently regulated under the VMR. Some of its applications come under the definition of medical devices, while others, e.g technologies for veterinary diagnosis, may require regulating and the sector is looking to the VMD for guidance. AI programmes are being used for developing biotechnologies such as engineered 'sandboxes' which are controlled testing environments designed, for example, to evaluate bacteriophage therapies. VMD is working with an expert seconded from the MHRA in this area.
- 10.2. There is clearly great scope for growth in innovation with AI. Meanwhile, the potential for it to help with internal processes such as assessing scientific application data is being explored. Members noted that AI is being used in farming with mixed results as it has produced incorrect information for using boluses in cattle but will help farmers with prescriptions.
- 10.3. A Member noted that a CVMP referral procedure for veterinary medicinal products containing albendazole as a single active substance presented as an oral suspension for sheep had recently concluded and found that a change should be made to recommended dosages. It was asked if UK products would be affected and VMD explained that once the Commission opinion is published the change should affect products in Northern Ireland, but it will then need to be decided if it is applicable to GB products. This stimulated a wider discussion around the role the VPC could potentially play in the decision-making process but recognising that gaining access to the data needed for consideration of GB authorisations will be a challenge.
- 10.4. A Member noted that an unauthorised vaccine had been imported from the US for use in Europe under emergency use provisions which seemed to evade EU vaccine laws. VMD noted

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that negotiations with the EU on trade agreements are ongoing and guidance has been published for businesses to help them prepare.

- 10.5. A Member noted that the MHRA have developed guidance for standards and use of real world data in both pharmacovigilance and licensing work. In principle use of such data could lower the cost of licensing work and so promote UK based innovation. Therefore it was suggested that the VMD may wish to look into this area through their RISE team.

11. **Items for information**

- 11.1. The following items for information are publicly available:

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

- 11.2. The following items for information are not publicly available:

11.2.1 Report to the VPC on new MA applications granted.

11.2.2 Report from the Scientific Secretariat and the Biological Committee.

11.2.3 Report to the VPC on new ATC applications.

12. **Any other business**

- 12.1. There was no other business.

13. **Date of next meeting**

- 13.1. The next meeting of the VPC will be on 15 October 2026 at the VMD, Woodham Lane, New Haw, Addlestone, Surrey.