CMA veterinary services for household pets market investigation

Linnaeus' comments on the draft funding materials for public consultation, dated 30 June 2026

30 July 2026

In response to the CMA's public consultation on the draft funding materials, Linnaeus sets out in the tables below its amendments to certain materials, together with an explanation of each amendment.

1. Draft Veterinary Services Market Investigation (Funding) Order 2026

Art.	Draft text	Linnaeus' changes	Linnaeus' comment
2	'**Veterinary Business'** means a person (any entity whether it is a legal person like a company, in a joint venture or partnership, or an individual) carrying on a business that comprises the retail provision of one or more Veterinary Services to Pet Owners for their Household Pets.	'**Veterinary Business'** means a person (any entity whether it is a legal person like a company, ~~in~~ a joint venture or partnership, or an individual) carrying on a business that comprises the retail provision of one or more Veterinary Services to Pet Owners for their Household Pets.	The definition has been amended to reflect the Substantive Remedy Order for public consultation.
6(1)	The CMA may, by written notice to any Qualifying Veterinary Business, require that Qualifying Veterinary Business to supply to the CMA such information and documents as the CMA may reasonably require for the purposes of this Order (including for the purpose of monitoring the carrying out of the requirements of this Order and for reviewing the effectiveness of this Order).	The CMA may, by written notice to any Qualifying Veterinary Business, require that Qualifying Veterinary Business to supply to the CMA such information and documents within its custody or control as the CMA may reasonably require for the purposes of this Order (including for the purpose of monitoring the carrying out of the requirements of this Order and for reviewing the effectiveness of this Order).	The text has been updated so that the obligation relates to information and documents within the Qualifying Veterinary Business' custody or control.

Art.	Draft text	Linnaeus' changes	Linnaeus' comment
6(2)	Any Qualifying Veterinary Business to which a notice is given under Article 6(1) shall be under a duty to supply the information required save that no Qualifying Veterinary Business shall be required to supply any information which it could not be compelled to supply in evidence in civil proceedings before the High Court in England and Wales, or Northern Ireland, or the Court of Session in Scotland.	Any Qualifying Veterinary Business to which a notice is given under Article 6(1) shall be under a duty to supply the information required within its custody or control save that no Qualifying Veterinary Business shall be required to supply any information which it could not be compelled to supply in evidence in civil proceedings before the High Court in England and Wales, or Northern Ireland, or the Court of Session in Scotland.	See above row.
7(1)	If a Qualifying Veterinary Business becomes aware that it is not compliant, or is likely to become non-compliant, with any requirement of this Order, it must report this non-compliance, or likely non-compliance, to the CMA and the RCVS within 14 days of becoming aware that it is not compliant or likely to become non-compliant.	If a Qualifying Veterinary Business becomes aware that it is not compliant~~, or is likely to become non-compliant,~~ with any requirement of this Order, it must report this non-compliance~~, or likely non-compliance,~~ to the CMA and the RCVS within 14 days of becoming aware that it is not compliant ~~or likely to become non-compliant~~.	The obligation to report actual non-compliance is objective. By contrast, the concept of "is likely to become non-compliant" is undefined and requires Qualifying Veterinary Businesses to predict whether a future breach is likely to occur, without specifying a probability threshold or evidential basis. Therefore, that text has been deleted.
7(2)	The report a Qualifying Veterinary Business makes in accordance with Article 7(1) must include statement of: (a) the circumstances of the breach, or likely breach, of the Order that are within the business's knowledge; and (b) what the business is doing to rectify the breach and ensure it is not repeated.	The report a Qualifying Veterinary Business makes in accordance with Article 7(1) must include a statement of: (a) the circumstances of the breach, ~~or likely breach,~~ of the Order that are within the business's knowledge; and (b) what the business is doing to rectify the breach and ensure it is not repeated.	The obligation to report actual non-compliance is objective. By contrast, the concept of "likely breach" is undefined and requires Qualifying Veterinary Businesses to predict whether a future breach is likely to occur, without specifying a probability threshold or evidential basis.

Art.	Draft text	Linnaeus' changes	Linnaeus' comment
			Therefore, that text has been deleted. We have also made a grammatical correction by adding in "a".

2. Draft Explanatory Note to the Veterinary Services Market Investigation (Funding) Order 2026

Para	Draft text	Linnaeus' changes	Linnaeus' comment
47	Part 4 – Monitoring and compliance Article 6(1) gives the CMA the ability to require any Qualifying Veterinary Business to supply information and documents to the CMA which the CMA may reasonably require for the purposes of the Funding Order (including for the purposes of allowing the CMA to monitor compliance with the Funding Order and to review the effectiveness of the Funding Order). Any such requirement would be imposed on the business by written notice.	Part 4 – Monitoring and compliance Article 6(1) gives the CMA the ability to require any Qualifying Veterinary Business to supply information and documents within its custody or control to the CMA which the CMA may reasonably require for the purposes of the Funding Order (including for the purposes of allowing the CMA to monitor compliance with the Funding Order and to review the effectiveness of the Funding Order). Any such requirement would be imposed on the business by written notice.	The text has been updated so that the obligation relates to information and documents within the Qualifying Veterinary Business' custody or control.
48	Article 6(2) excludes from the scope of Article 6(1) any information which a Qualifying Veterinary Business could not be compelled to supply in evidence in civil proceedings in any court in the United Kingdom. The business would not be required to provide such information to the CMA in response to a written notice issued in accordance with Article 6(1).	Article 6(2) excludes from the scope of Article 6(1) any information within its custody or control which a Qualifying Veterinary Business could not be compelled to supply in evidence in civil proceedings in any court in the United Kingdom. The business would not be required to provide such information to	See above row.

Para	Draft text	Linnaeus' changes	Linnaeus' comment
		the CMA in response to a written notice issued in accordance with Article 6(1).	
51	Article 7(1) requires Qualifying Veterinary Businesses, if they are aware they are not compliant with the Funding Order, or likely to become non-compliant with the Funding Order, to report this non-compliance, or likely non-compliance, to the CMA and the RCVS within 14 days of becoming aware that they are not compliant or likely to become non-compliant. Early notification will allow for the CMA and the RCVS to work with the party concerned on actions to end the breach quickly and effectively and for the CMA to understand whether specific enforcement action is necessary to end any breach. This approach facilitates the efficient use of investigative resource in the CMA, the RCVS and the party concerned.	Article 7(1) requires Qualifying Veterinary Businesses, if they are aware they are not compliant with the Funding Order~~, or likely to become non-compliant~~ with the Funding Order, to report this non-compliance~~, or likely non-compliance,~~ to the CMA and the RCVS within 14 days of becoming aware that they are not compliant ~~or likely to become non-compliant~~. Early notification will allow for the CMA and the RCVS to work with the party concerned on actions to end the breach quickly and effectively and for the CMA to understand whether specific enforcement action is necessary to end any breach. This approach facilitates the efficient use of investigative resource in the CMA, the RCVS and the party concerned.	The obligation to report actual non-compliance is objective. By contrast, the concept of "likely to become non-compliant" is undefined and requires Qualifying Veterinary Businesses to predict whether a future breach is likely to occur, without specifying a probability threshold or evidential basis. Therefore, that text has been deleted.
52	Article 7(2) specifies the information which Qualifying Veterinary Businesses must include in a report of non-compliance or likely non-compliance in accordance with Article 7(1).	Article 7(2) specifies the information which Qualifying Veterinary Businesses must include in a report of non-compliance ~~or likely non-compliance~~ in accordance with Article 7(1).	See above row.