

Questions raised on Antibiotics - December 2013

Veterinary Medicine: Antibiotics Environment Food and Rural Affairs

5th December 2013



Zac Goldsmith (Richmond Park, Conservative)

To ask the [Secretary of State](#) for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will assess the lessons for the **UK** of the government of France's National Plan for the Reduction of the Risks of **Antibiotic Resistance** in **Veterinary Medicine**; and if he will make a statement.



George Eustice (The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs; Camborne and Redruth, Conservative)

The priorities of the French National Plan (Ecoantibio 2017), aimed at their livestock, animal health and veterinary pharmaceutical sectors, are broadly similar to those outlined within the **UK** Five Year Antimicrobial Resistance (**AMR**) Strategy; improving infection prevention and control practices; promotion of antibiotic stewardship; developing alternatives to antibiotic use; improving surveillance of antibiotic use and levels of resistance; and strengthening international collaboration. However, the UK takes a '**One Health**' approach to slowing down the development and spread of antimicrobial resistance, ie spanning people, animals, agriculture and the wider environment, thereby reflecting the **EU** Commission Action Plan published in November 2011.

Variations in the structure of veterinary practice and the livestock industries in the two countries mean that aspects of the French model may not be applicable to the UK. However, lessons can be learned from the outcome of the varying approaches taken by other EU member states with regards to impact on public health and on animal health and welfare. The Government will continue to consider these, and other aspects of the emerging evidence base, and will look to use such data to inform the ongoing development and implementation of national activities to deliver the goals outlined within the UK AMR Strategy.



Zac Goldsmith (Richmond Park, Conservative)

To ask the [Secretary of State](#) for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for what reasons his Department does not monitor veterinary use of antibiotics.



George Eustice (The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs; Camborne and Redruth, Conservative)

For the past 14 years, in response to recommendations made by the **Advisory Committee on the Microbiological Safety of Food (ACMSF)**, the **Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD)** has collected, collated and published figures on **UK** sales volumes of active antimicrobial ingredients in products authorised for use in animals. The reports from 1998-2004 were based on sales data provided voluntarily by the veterinary pharmaceutical companies marketing these products, in the UK. However, from 2005, veterinary pharmaceutical companies have been required by the Veterinary Medicine Regulations 2005 to provide sales data on products for which they have Marketing Authorisations.

It is reasonable to assume that there is a correlation between the reported quantities of product sold and those used in animals in the UK. However, collection of sales data presents significant limitations with regard to data analysis and interpretation, in particular in determining the antibiotic quantities sold for use in different animal species.

The Government is exploring potential pathways to obtain more accurate data on antibiotic consumption in animals, in order to monitor responsible use in the veterinary sector. This has been highlighted in the recently published cross Government Antimicrobial Resistance Strategy 2013-18. Detailed outcome measures are being developed for the Strategy, which include the examination and reduction of overall antibiotic use through responsible and appropriate prescribing.