

# Questions raised on Antibiotics - July 2014

## Veterinary Medicine: Antibiotics

### Environment Food and Rural Affairs

1<sup>st</sup> July 2014



**Zac Goldsmith** (Richmond Park, Conservative)

To ask the [Secretary of State](#) for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the oral evidence of the [Parliamentary Under-Secretary](#) of State for Farming, Food and Marine Environment to the [Science and Technology Committee](#) of 12 March 2014, HC 848, question 327, what the evidential basis is for his statement that antibiotics tend to be used in the veterinary world more sparingly than in the medical world.



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

Data on antibiotic use in the medical and veterinary sectors are currently collated in a different format, which prevents direct comparison.

However, data from the [Health and Social Care Information Centre](#) shows that 376 tonnes of just one class of antibiotic, the  $\beta$ -lactams, was used in primary care in England in 2012. This does not factor in other classes of antibiotic, or those used in secondary care, in contrast the total sales of all antibiotics for use in animals for the whole **UK** was 409 tonnes, 82 tonnes of which were  $\beta$ -lactams.

## Agriculture and Fisheries Council

### Environment Food and Rural Affairs

7<sup>th</sup> July 2014



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

I represented the UK at the [EU Agriculture and Fisheries Council](#) on 16 and 17 June. Alun Davies **AM** and Richard Lochhead **MSP** were also present for parts of the meeting.

Tuesday 17 June 2014

#### *Anti-microbial resistance in animal husbandry*

Sweden, supported by Denmark, called on the Commission to provide an update to the 2011 action plan on the responsible use of anti-microbials in animal husbandry, claiming that antibiotic resistance contributes to approximately 25,000 deaths per year and €1.2 billion costs to health care services. Commissioner Borg stated that this is a high priority for the Commission. A five-year road map has been published and a full progress report will be published this year.

#### *Animal, plant and control package: smarter rules for safer food*

The presidency described progress made on the package of measures. The discussion focused in particular on import controls with divergent views among Ministers on the need for a risk-based "open" system or precautionary "closed" system. I was robust in calling for the outcome to be a genuine simplification with fewer powers delegated to the Commission and respect for subsidiarity in relation to fees and charging of businesses.

# Antimicrobial Resistance

## Oral Answers to Questions — Health

11:30 am

15<sup>th</sup> July 2014



**Julian Sturdy** (York Outer, Conservative)

What steps his Department is taking to tackle the issue of antimicrobial resistance.



**Jane Ellison** (The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health; Battersea, Conservative)

We are leading cross-Government action to address antimicrobial resistance—**AMR**—at national and global levels. We published details of how we will measure the success of the **UK's** AMR strategy, and we will publish an annual progress report in November. We are considering recommendations in the **Science and Technology Committee's** AMR report. I gave evidence to that Committee and we will publish our response in September.



**Julian Sturdy** (York Outer, Conservative)

I very much welcome the Government's international lead on antibiotic resistance, led by the **Prime Minister**. Does my hon. Friend agree that increasing the unit price of antibiotics and tackling their growing misuse in developing countries is absolutely vital if we are not to face a return to the medical dark ages?



**Jane Ellison** (The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health; Battersea, Conservative)

My hon. Friend is quite right to highlight this as a major challenge facing us. I pay tribute to the chief medical officer and to the **Prime Minister** for the international leadership they have given on this. He will be pleased to hear that the antibiotics market will be considered in its totality by the O'Neill review, which was announced by the Prime **Minister** on 2 July. It is of course important to bear in mind that while we look at tackling global antibiotic misuse, we need to balance the need for global conservation measures with accessibility for lower-income countries.

# Antibiotics

## Health

21<sup>st</sup> July 2014



**Jim Shannon** (Shadow DUP Spokesperson (Health); Strangford, DUP)

To ask the **Secretary of State** for Health if he will take steps to put in place a media campaign to educate the public about alternatives to antibiotics.



**Jane Ellison** (The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health; Battersea, Conservative)

The Department is working with other Government Departments to co-ordinate implementation of the Antimicrobial Resistance Strategy including improving public and professional understanding and awareness.

**Public Health England (PHE)** is leading on work to improve public knowledge, attitudes and behaviours in relation to antimicrobial resistance in collaboration with partners across the health and social care sector in England.

PHE is co-ordinating work on European Antibiotic Awareness Day (EAAD) for England. EAAD is a European initiative which takes place on 18 November each year and aims to promote prudent antibiotic use among professionals and the public.

PHE are also working with the Department to explore the potential for additional targeted media work.