

Questions raised on Antibiotics – June 2013

Antibiotics

Business, Innovation and Skills

25th June 2013



Zac Goldsmith (Richmond Park, Conservative)

To ask the [Secretary of State](#) for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he had on **antibiotic** resistance at the G8 Science Ministers meeting on 12 June 2013.



David Willetts (Minister of State (Universities and Science), Business, Innovation and Skills; Havant, Conservative)

There were substantive discussions on **antibiotic** resistance at the G8 Science Ministers meeting. After reviewing the evidence on the increase in **antibiotic** resistance we concluded that antimicrobial resistance is a serious global problem affecting humans, animals and the environment that has to be addressed by a wide ranging programme of work. Governments and the scientific community have an important role to play, at both a national and international level, in improving practice in all sectors and stimulating research. The main areas for action are set out in the ministerial statement at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/g8-science-ministers-statement>

Topical Questions

Oral Answers to Questions — Business, Innovation and Skills

9:30 am

13th June 2013



Julian Smith (Skipton and Ripon, Conservative)

The Government are having a really successful run-up to this year's G8; \$4.5 billion was pledged for global malnutrition last Saturday and there has been a highly successful science summit this week. Will the Science [Minister](#) update the House with further details of the science summit?



David Willetts (Minister of State (Universities and Science), Business, Innovation and Skills; Havant, Conservative)

We had an excellent summit of the G8 Science Ministers at the [Royal Society](#) yesterday. We agreed that new global challenges such as **antibiotic** resistance needed to be tackled, and we committed ourselves to the publication of research and data that are publicly funded.

Antimicrobial Resistance Strategy

Department of Health

11:30 am

11th June 2013



Zac Goldsmith (Richmond Park, Conservative)

What progress has been made on implementation of the **UK** five-year antimicrobial resistance strategy.



Anna Soubry (Broxtowe, Conservative)

We will shortly be seeking cross-Government clearance to publish the **UK** strategy, which addresses the challenges raised in the chief medical officer's annual report and sets out the priority areas for action, such as slowing down the spread of resistance, maintaining the efficacy of antimicrobials and supporting the development of new antimicrobials.



Zac Goldsmith (Richmond Park, Conservative)

In January, the chief medical officer warned that the threat from **antibiotic**-resistant infections was so serious that it should be added to the Government's national register of civil emergencies, the national risk register, alongside deadly flu outbreaks or catastrophic terrorist attacks. My hon. Friend is preparing a new cross-Government strategy on **antibiotics**. Given the growing evidence linking the routine use of **antibiotics** on intensive farms with **antibiotic**-resistant infections in humans, can she confirm that the strategy will tackle that reckless practice, regardless of pressure from industry?



Anna Soubry (Broxtowe, Conservative)

I could give my hon. Friend a long answer, but in short, the matter will be raised at the next G8 meeting. Further to that, as a result of his excellent debate earlier this year, I undertook to write, and have done so, to my hon. Friend the **Minister** of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. He has replied that the Government recognise that we should look at the guidance issued to farmers. I am more than happy to share the **Minister**'s letter with my hon. Friend.

Health: Chronic Back Pain

House of Lords

6th June 2013



Lord Luce (Crossbench)

To ask **Her Majesty's** Government what assessment they have made of the findings of the Danish Rheumatic Association that effective **antibiotic** treatment can tackle one of the causes of chronic back pain for those with excess fluid in their vertebrae.



Earl Howe (Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Quality), Health; Conservative)

The department has made no assessment of the findings published by researchers in Denmark that effective **antibiotic** treatment can tackle one of the causes of chronic back pain for those with excess fluid in their vertebrae.

These findings are encouraging. However, they are not definitive. Further research will be needed to confirm these findings before any treatment is likely to be approved and licensed for routine use in the United Kingdom. There will also need to be extensive safety investigations as **antibiotics** are not generally given for prolonged periods.

Fidaxomicin

Health

3rd June 2013



David Amess (Southend West, Conservative)

To ask the **Secretary of State** for Health

(1) *what steps he is taking to circulate the new **Health Protection Agency** guidance on fidaxomicin amongst clinical professionals;*

(2) *what steps he is taking to publicise the new Health Protection Agency guidance on clostridium difficile and the **antibiotic** fidaxomicin.*



Anna Soubry (Broxtove, Conservative)

Public Health England (the **Health Protection Agency** has been incorporated into Public Health England) published the document 'Updated Guidance on the Management and Treatment of Clostridium difficile Infection', which includes information on fidaxomicin, on the Health Protection Agency legacy website earlier this month. The guidance is being disseminated via Public Health England Centres across England. The centres have been asked to share the new publication

with their national health service colleagues.

In line with recent evidence, the guidance recommends that fidaxomicin should be considered for patients with severe *Clostridium difficile* infection who are considered at high risk for recurrence.