

AMTRA

ANIMAL MEDICINES TRAINING REGULATORY AUTHORITY

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2 June 2008

Mr Andrew Robinson
Deputy Director Delivery Transformation Programme
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Dear Andrew

VMD & Hampton

Thank you for the presentation you made to the stakeholders meeting on the future of VMD held last week. It was most helpful in clarifying the position.

I wish to re-iterate my belief that there is no justification for any change in the current status of VMD, and neither has any justification for any change been demonstrated.

There is no business case for any change, from the information available to myself as a stakeholder, there would be no cost saving either to Government or to the industry that it serves. Indeed it can be argued that there would be a net cost associated with a change of status - a cost that could only be met by higher Government expenditure at a time of limited resources, or increased charges to the industry that VMD serves. Neither option is at all attractive to anyone.

VMD is the ideal body to fulfil the purpose for which it was created. It is responsible for the authorisation, distribution and safety of animal medicines in the United Kingdom; its functions are not in any way devolved to the administrations in Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland. It is successful, and meets the needs of the industry, and protects the interests of animal owners, animals, and for food producing animals, the consumer of the food. It is a vital function that cannot be prejudiced by unnecessary upheaval.

In looking at the European Union as a whole there is no doubt that those agencies responsible for animal medicines for which the primary and exclusive focus is animal medicines, provide a far better service to consumers and industry than agencies where animal medicine issues are subsidiary to other matters.

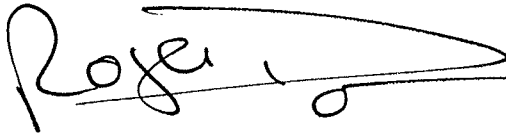
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It is true that Hampton recommended mergers, and that it was then considered that VMD should be one of the bodies to be included. However, a close analysis of the unique work and role of VMD may not have been undertaken at that time, in which case the conclusion reached while understandable, may have been mistaken. On close analysis the case for change to VMD has not been made, indeed the reverse is the case, and recognition of this fact would be applauded, not seen as something to be criticised.

I therefore, urge you to recommend in the strongest possible terms, that VMD remain independent and able to serve its stakeholders to the same standard in the future as it has done in the past. As I said at the meeting, I have worked with VMD since its creation almost 20 years ago, and hope both myself and my successor are able to continue to do so.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roger", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right across the page.

Dr Roger R Dawson
AMTRA Secretary