



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

The Rt Hon Lord Benyon
Minister for Biosecurity, Marine and Rural Affairs

2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

T: +44 (0) 3459 335577
E: correspondence.section@defra.gov.uk
W: gov.uk/defra

Sir William Cash MP
Chair
European Scrutiny Committee
14 Tothill Street
House of Commons
London
SW1H 9NB

28 November 2022

Dear Sir William,

EM 6864/22: PROPOSAL FOR A REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL LAYING DOWN TRANSITIONAL RULES FOR THE PACKAGING AND LABELLING OF VETERINARY MEDICINAL PRODUCTS AUTHORISED IN ACCORDANCE WITH DIRECTIVE 2001/82/EC AND REGULATION (EC) NO 726/2004

Thank you for your letter, dated 18 July 2022 seeking an update on progress of discussions with the European Commission on veterinary medicines. I hope the below is useful.

We are continuing to press the Commission on veterinary medicines issues and are urgently seeking a long-term solution that safeguards the availability of veterinary medicines in Northern Ireland.

The UK has raised the impending deadline of the end of December for the veterinary medicines grace period and the need to maintain the availability of veterinary medicines in Northern Ireland.

It remains our preference to resolve the issues facing veterinary medicines through talks. The Foreign Secretary and Vice President Maroš Šefčovič are in regular contact and have reiterated their shared commitment to exploring potential solutions on this issue.

However, the UK Government reserves our right to take action to ensure that animals in Northern Ireland can continue to access the veterinary medicines and vaccines they need if we cannot reach a negotiated solution. The Northern Ireland Protocol Bill also aims to ensure that there are no barriers in domestic law that prevent medicines, for either human or veterinary use, from being supplied to Northern Ireland.

We are copying this letter to Simon Hoare MP, Chair of the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee and Stephen Habberley, Clerk of the Committee; the Earl of Kinnoull, Chair of the European Affairs Committee in the House of Lords and Nick Boorer, Clerk of the Committee; the Departmental Scrutiny Coordinator, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs; and Les Saunders, EU Document Scrutiny Manager, Foreign Commonwealth & Development Office.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Benyon.

THE RT HON LORD BENYON