

Jack Sargeant MS
Welsh Parliament
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From: Martin Coleman
CMA Panel Chair
Telephone: 020 3738 6000
Our ref: MP001288

19 August 2024

Dear Mr Sargeant

Thank you for your letter dated 17 July. Thank you also for highlighting the work carried out by Dr Linda Evelyn Joyce-Jones and the Petitions Committee.

We have followed the work of the Petitions Committee with interest, and we will take the evidence gathered by the Committee into consideration. We will keep you and the Committee updated as we progress.

We appreciate Dr Joyce-Jones' continued engagement with our work and are pleased that she was able to join us at a roundtable event that we held recently in Swansea.

The event was also attended by a number of veterinary surgeons working in independently owned clinics in Wales, and representatives from the office of the Chief Veterinary Officer for Wales and the British Veterinary Union. We discussed a number of key issues including:

- Challenges for the sector focused on independent vets / barriers to entry
- Contextualised care
- Trends in the industry - eg humanisation of pets
- Veterinary medicines
- Regulation of the sector

and we welcomed Dr Joyce-Jones' helpful input to these discussions.

We recently published our [Issues Statement](#) which sets out the particular issues under consideration and our intended approach. We are taking into account the changing structure of the market and the impact of different business models in the sector, including those adopted by large vertically integrated groups. We are continuing our evidence gathering as we progress our wide-ranging investigation. Dr Joyce-Jones can continue to follow the progress of our investigation via our case page.

Best regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M A Coleman".

Martin Coleman
CMA Panel Chair
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