

23 August 2018

Ms Aarti Ramachandran  
Head of Research and Corporate Engagement  
FAIRR  
116 Park Street  
London  
W1K 6AF

Dear Ms Ramachandran

**Re: Livestock Production and the use of medically important antibiotic**

Thank you for your letter of 15th August 2018 and thank you for your acknowledgement of Whitbread's ongoing approach and policy on antibiotic use as we have long recognised that the health and welfare of animals is of paramount importance.

We continue to work with our suppliers and advocate the responsible use of antibiotics at farm level; specifically the reduction of Highest Priority Critically Important Antibiotics (HP-CIA), as defined by the European Medicines Agency. In practice this means limited use of fluoroquinolones, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> generation cephalosporins, and colistin i.e. where no other product will be effective for the condition being treated

To this end Whitbread ensures utilisation of raw materials which are fully traceable and from known supply chains which advocate operating a responsible medicines use policy (devised in conjunction with their vet). We also welcome schemes which monitor and recommend practices to reduce the use of HP-CIA's such as the recently implemented red tractor initiative to monitor the UK Beef, Lamb and Dairy sectors and other monitoring and antibiotic reduction schemes from Holland and Denmark (see links)

[https://assurance.redtractor.org.uk/contentfiles/Farmers-6910.pdf?\\_=636585120315070190](https://assurance.redtractor.org.uk/contentfiles/Farmers-6910.pdf?_=636585120315070190)

<http://www.autoriteitdiergeneesmiddelen.nl/Userfiles/Eng%20rapport%20AB%20gebruik%202015/def-engels-rapportage-ab-gebruik-2015.pdf>

<https://www.foedevarestyrelsen.dk/english/Animal/AnimalHealth/Pages/The-Yellow-Card-Initiative-on-Antibiotics.aspx>

A commitment to preferentially source from Farm Assured supply bases (where in country schemes exist) and/or regions implementing antimicrobial monitoring and reduction strategies is key to Whitbread sourcing policy and is an area of continued and ongoing development. Examples of this commitment can be found in our published policies such as our beef and pig meat welfare policies which clearly state that the prophylactic use of antibiotics is not permitted and recognizing that the use of antibiotics as growth promoters is prohibited across all sectors.

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To this end far more emphasis is now placed on the importance of vaccination, nutrition and probiotics as a means of maintaining animal health and welfare. Additionally, Whitbread is now working with independent consultants to assist in furthering the understanding of the potential issues surrounding antibiotic use within supply chains at a corporate level. Ultimately, this will inform longer term practical strategies and policy commitments.

Thank you for your recommendations to further enhance our approach to the ongoing reduction of HP-CIA's. We believe that as we publish our Farm Animal Welfare Policies by species the language we have adopted provides a clear indication of our objectives and we will continue to maintain focus on publishing policies for all species where animal welfare and HP-CIA's are a concern. Thank you also for raising the need for targets, timelines and reporting on progress for implementation. We will look to provide these once we have consulted with our third-party auditors and suppliers to ensure our objectives are aligned and realistic. In addition, we will look at the possibility of reporting on antibiotic use by therapeutic category and will continue to use publicly available benchmarked data e.g. RUMA Targets Task Force to inform this process.

Whitbread will continue working to address responsible antibiotic use and the evaluation criteria you encourage is welcomed as a framework for analysis. We will look to build these into our agenda and progress reporting as appropriate.

I hope that this has provided you with the information you require and the confidence that Whitbread adopts a responsible, measured and inclusive approach to this important issue.

Yours sincerely

Paul Clutton  
Group Procurement Director