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**PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL**

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Dear

*Steve*

**RE: CONTROLLED DRUGS**

A number of changes have been made to the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001 following the Fourth Report of the Shipman Inquiry, primarily with reference to the human healthcare professions and the NHS.

The Veterinary Medicines Directorate has indicated it will review the impact of the Fourth Report of the Shipman Inquiry on the use of veterinary medicines, with the RCVS and the BVA, and the RCVS Advisory Committee has asked me to enquire when this review will be undertaken.

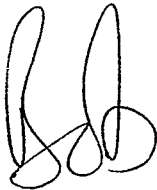
The RCVS published interim advice pending this review in the March 2007 issue of RCVS NEWS, on the use, prescription and supply of controlled drugs and a copy of the advice is enclosed.

More recently, the Advisory Committee has had cause to look at the issue of access to controlled drugs, following the comments by a coroner at an inquest into the death of an employee at a veterinary practice. I enclose for your information a copy of the Committee's discussion paper (without enclosures) which provides the background to the incident and discusses the issues involved. The RCVS has approved an advice note on the access to controlled drugs and a copy of the advice note is enclosed.

The veterinary surgeon who gave evidence at the inquest has raised further issues with the RCVS, such as the lack of apparent regulation of veterinary wholesalers and the difficulties of disposing of out of date Schedule 2 controlled drugs.

I look forward to hearing when the Veterinary Medicines Directorate will take forward the issues raised by the Fourth report of the Shipman Inquiry, as they apply to the veterinary profession and look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely



**Dr R P Moore BVM&S DVM&S(hc) MRCVS**  
President

Encs

Cc: Mr J D Blayney BVSc, President, British Veterinary Association