

SCIENTIFIC GROUP IMPARTIALITY STATEMENT

The Responsible Use of Medicines in Agriculture Alliance (RUMA) is an agricultural and food industry alliance which promotes responsible use of medicines in farm animals. Its 26 member organisations represent all stages of the animal food chain from 'farm to fork' that have an interest in the stewardship of animal medicines in agriculture. This reflects the importance of traceability, transparency and accountability at all points in the chain: from primary food production, through processing, manufacturing and retailing to the final consumer. Membership of RUMA includes organisations representing interests in agriculture, veterinary practice, animal medicines, farm assurance, training, food processing, retailing, consumers and the public, and animal welfare. RUMA has formulated comprehensive guidelines for the responsible use of antimicrobials in livestock production.

RUMA's advice and position statements are based on the latest science. In order to ensure this, RUMA has established an independent scientific group to provide impartial scientific advice on all aspects of responsible use of medicines, particularly in relation to antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and antibiotic use in animals.

The members of RUMA's Scientific Group are not paid by RUMA but are able to claim expenses for activities for RUMA e.g. attending RUMA meetings, conferences etc. They have all agreed to act in accordance with this Impartiality Statement which was requested by themselves.

To ensure RUMA Scientific Group's objectivity and impartiality, members agree to abide by the principles below (adapted from the Nolan Principles) and to make a declaration of interest at the beginning of each meeting:

- **Selflessness** Members should act solely in terms of providing independent scientific advice to RUMA. They should not do so in order to gain financial or other benefits for themselves, their family or their friends.
- **Integrity** Members should not place themselves under any financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organisations that might seek to influence them in the performance of their duties.
- **Objectivity** In carrying out RUMA's business members should make choices based on their scientific expertise.
- **Accountability** Members are accountable for their decisions and actions and must submit themselves to whatever scrutiny is appropriate to their role.
- **Openness** Members should be as open as possible about all the decisions and actions that they take. They should give reasons for their decisions [and restrict information only when the wider public interest clearly demands it].
- **Honesty** Members have a duty to declare any private interests relating to their role and to take steps to resolve any conflicts arising in a way that protects their independence.
- **Leadership** Members should promote and support these principles by leadership and example.