[16.R6] 6/3/18..

[…]

I2: ‘[…] we are a customer in the supply chain’. I2 couldn’t remember how many companies they use but lots in multiple countries.

They have an animal welfare policy […] team of technologists who approve sites

Then each site signs up to a legal contract with a number of technical specifications which include things like ingredients, manufacturing methods, agreed suppliers, country of origin etc. And there are technical policies within that which include animal welfare, antibiotic usage

All of this is managed through a computer portal

Whole bird chickens are UK sourced, portions are sourced globally.

Within a chicken pie the chicken meat, the chicken stock, the chicken gravy could all come from different places.

A colleague has drafted their AM use policy, which they haven’t launched yet, it is a work in process. (I asked if it would be possible to see this when it was finishes, I1s response suggested this will be unlikely).

I asked which CIA list they were using and I1 [was unsure]. I clarified that the EU and WHO have different lists for critical antibiotics and I2 thinks they use both.

I1: For them AMR is just one of many many areas they must take into account. Don’t have the expertise internally to know what to do. Rely on knowledge and advice of others […] This consultation and decision making is done within the technical department.

I asked about training within the company on these recommendations. […] They don’t require training, but there is a requirement that suppliers meet their specifications. […]

I1: statement ‘Consistent Science Evidence Based Prediction’. In the context of the discussion this confused me and I asked for an explanation. I1 said that in my introduction I’d said that we were interested to know what would be useful for them going forward. […]

I1: was then critical of looking at pigs and chickens only. I explained that we were interested to know what was happening here as they were further along than other sectors and so learnings here could be applied elsewhere rather than reinventing the wheel. I1 then talked a lot about Dairy and Fish.

I1: we need to be told what to do, and not just for pigs and chickens.

Are there certain antibiotics we should be saying these are the bad ones? Which ones are good? […]

What we need is a simple list of information based on risk factor by animal.

[…]

Who in the government is providing information is it Defra or is it the FSA?

I2: I approached the [organisation] about testing. Asked if they should be testing and if so what for, and what to do with the information but didn’t really get a response. Should it be one body doing this?

I1: Not saying we want league tables that wouldn’t be helpful, but do want to understand the problem. But without scaremongering, what is the actual risk? Scaremongering doesn’t drive the industry to test. [....]

I asked a question about consumer or internal company pressure on AMR.

I1: there is no pressure coming from outside. It is just us, me and I2 are good people, we want to do the right thing.

I referred back to their comment on whole chickens versus a pie and asked how they managed the complexity of traceability.

I1: through the portal they know country of origin per ingredient. […]

I1 & I2: The system (generally, not just for them) has traceability back to the previous step in the chain. Might be a farm, might be a factory. And then they have the information for the next step back and so on.

I1: Gave the example of Fipronil. Had never heard of it before. But using the portal and the one step back knowledge within the system could trace country of origin. Not farm but country.

I1: This is not robust enough, if I was writing the legislation this is not how I would do this.

I1: returned to the subject of why pigs and chickens. Dairy farming is complex and the life cycle much longer.

I2: said something about just learning about drying off this week.

I1: asked who of the other retailers I had talked to and what other interviewees had said about all of this. It must be similar surely. We need clear information. I explained again that we had been talking to people across supply chains […]. That some people who worked with farms had things to say about investing in husbandry and possible funding models for this, other people had talked about carcase balance and consumer preferences complicating supply chains, others feel that the hospitality industry is a neglected area and that because of the way gene transfer works unless everyone is on board any gains will be limited, others gave examples of specific data that would be useful to them...

I1: then very carefully repeated some of what I had said. […] That I1 would like a link to guidance on husbandry and how this links to responsible use. But it is the clearest source of information I1 has found and if a consumer got in touch they would point them to [external organisation] website to explain the issue. (I asked if anyone had […] and said didn’t know and wouldn’t want to say without checking. I commented that if they don’t know suggests it is not a major concern, and they agreed on that).

We had five minutes left so I asked if they had questions for me

I1: How is the FSA planning and retaining links with the EU and internationally?

I asked if given their own supply chains if they felt that there are places that the [organisation] should be putting resources? […] I1: can’t specify particular countries but the [organisation] needs to get its act together and to work internationally.

I1 then brought out a copy of […] read out a section about needing global answers. […] We were told it was urgent, figures about deaths by 2050, but what have they done since then… […] […]

I1: We need clarity, and not just on two species. Because retailers can be quite powerful. Retailers have a lot of influence on suppliers, but it would be really cool if those experts […] were not just UK and not just two species. To work in isolation is to miss a trick. Great solutions need to be shared. Need a joined up approach.

I1: then went on to talk about human use. Wanting to know both what is being done here and why our project wasn’t looking at that. What is ‘The consumer behaviour in relation to antibiotic usage discipline and education thereof’’. I asked for clarification and I1 talked about ‘those who administer and those who use’.

I1: ‘retailers are only part of the food chain, there are also wholesalers, caterers, public food services. What is the education for vets in terms of AMR (not quite I1s words but something akin to the power sits with them). I explained a little bit as to what is going on […] but that was not the main focus of this project. I1 suggested that the fact that I was not entirely certain of all the details suggested that it is not enough and more joined up work is needed…

I1: […] do work on consumer messages

[…]

Meeting Closed