**Tesco**

Dear Emma,

Thank you for your letter to our Chief Executive Dave Lewis regarding the use of antibiotics.

Like you, we absolutely recognise the importance of antibiotics in human and animal medicine and the risk of their improper use. As a food retailer we understand our responsibility to work with our suppliers and other industry partners to reduce the use of antibiotics where possible.

Our approach everywhere we operate is to encourage our producers to optimise welfare, health, hygiene and biosecurity of animals and avoid the need to use antibiotic treatment unless the welfare of an animal is compromised. This approach is based upon guidelines issued by the Responsible use of Medicines in Agriculture (RUMA) Alliance, of which we are a member. In addition, we require that every veterinary medication is approved for use and that strict withdrawal times are applied to ensure the medicine does not enter the food chain.

We have committed to monitoring antibiotic use on farms in the UK with the aim to support reduction strategies in our supply base over time. We aim to achieve this reduction by working collaboratively with farmers, vets and researchers to promote best practice in welfare, health, hygiene, husbandry and biosecurity to mitigate the need to use antibiotic treatment. We are also implementing a number of steps including the requirement of farmers to record antibiotic use on a monthly basis and the requirement that a veterinary health plan is in place that specifies antibiotics are only permitted for use under veterinary prescription for the treatment of sick animals. Over time we will identify trends and set objectives to optimise the use of antibiotics.

Ensuring that our polices and positions are available to customers and other stakeholders is important to Tesco and to be as transparent as possible, we have shared a detailed Animal Welfare Policy on our PLC website which includes our position on the use of antibiotics. We have both a Group-wide policy (<https://www.tescoplc.com/tesco-and-society/reports-policies-and-disclosure/animal-welfare-policy>) as well as a more specific page referring to our procedures in the UK (<https://www.tescoplc.com/tesco-and-society/reports-policies-and-disclosure/animal-welfare-policy/more-information-on-our-uk-animal-welfare/>). As you have suggested in your own letter, our ambition is that over time, our UK procedures and policies will be extended to cover other supply chains internationally.

Please let me know if you have any further questions or comments on our policy. I would be happy to receive these, share internally with our agriculture team and respond where I can.

Kind regards,

Natalie.

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| **Natalie McHardy**| Chief Executive’s Office |
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