

SCOPS-COWS Information Collection Position Statement

December 2025

- SCOPS/COWS understand the potential value of having more information on anthelmintic use in the UK
- There needs to be a clear definition between the value and use of National/Sector Level information versus Farm Level information. SCOPS / COWS perceive National level information would provide only a marginal benefit. Farm level information can inform farmer/adviser/vet conversations and decisions
- Information can be factual eg National/Sector Level sales figures, or taking a deeper dive into motivations for use ie by collecting feedback/doing farmer surveys (Farmer Level)
- SCOPS/COWS could use the information to inform future activities and demonstrate impact of past work to industry and funders/potential funders
- SCOPS/COWS would support the collection of information if its value was shown to be beneficial, but it has to be accurate and informative
- There must be clear justification for collecting new information. In the first instance this would remain confidential before it is potentially published/used
- The cost of collecting information must be considered in relation to the perceived benefit. This will not just be monetary cost. Thought needs to be given to the burden placed on farmers/vets/SQPs during the collection process and any perceived negatives coming from the use of the figures by other parties
- Consideration should be given to the different effects and outcomes from the mandatory collection of information as opposed to voluntary collection
- There must be clear rules on information gathering, use, ownership and Freedom of Information status.

