

## Animal medicine seizure notice: Border Force, Stansted Airport



A parcel was detained and subsequently seized at the Border Force, Stansted Airport. This parcel was addressed to a residential premise in the UK and contained:

- 13 x 100ml Dexamethasone Injection 4.37mg/ml

These products intended for use in horses are not authorised products in the UK.

The medicines were seized under Regulation 25 (Importation of unauthorised veterinary medicinal products) of the Veterinary Medicines Regulations 2013.

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## Scheme giving ex-offenders a stable place to live up and running

- accommodation for vulnerable offenders leaving prison
- dedicated pre-release support for those at risk of homelessness
- part of government's £100 million Rough Sleeping Strategy

A scheme giving vulnerable ex-offenders stable accommodation to help them rebuild their lives and stay away from crime is now up and running, Prisons Minister Lucy Frazer announced today (10 October 2019).

Prisoners due for release from Leeds, Pentonville and Bristol jails, but who are at risk of homelessness, have been the first to benefit from the trailblazing £6.4 million pilot.

The scheme is funded by the MHCLG's £100 million Rough Sleeping strategy. The most recent national figures, from the Official 2018 Rough Sleeping Snapshot, showed that the number of people sleeping on our streets on a single night fell for the first time in 8 years. The number of those sleeping rough on one night in 2018 was 2% lower than the previous year.

The first set of ex-offenders have now entered dedicated accommodation, bringing stability to their often-chaotic lives.

Ex-offenders in the scheme will live in the accommodation for up to 2 years, having received tailored support in the lead up to their release date.

Research shows that former prisoners who are in stable accommodation are significantly less likely to reoffend within a year than those who are homeless or in temporary accommodation.

The pilots are part of a new partnership between prisons, local authorities, probation staff and charities, designed to give prisoners support and stability to turn their lives around.

This builds on the government's recently announced £2.5 billion investment to transform the estate – providing 10,000 modern prison places that will aid rehabilitation and cut reoffending. A further £100 million will be spent on security measures to clamp down on the drugs that hinder rehabilitation, while also fuelling debt, violence and self-harm behind bars.

Prisons Minister Lucy Frazer QC MP said:

This is a vital part of our plan to reduce reoffending, drive down crime and better protect the public.

The government is investing in prisons that will boost rehabilitation, but we must also make sure that ex-offenders have the stable accommodation that makes them far less likely to commit further crime.

With 20,000 more police officers on the streets and tougher sentences for the most violent and sexual offenders, this is just another way in which we will make our communities safer.

Homelessness Minister Luke Hall MP said:

No one should ever have to live without a home or a roof over their head. The new Offender Accommodation Pilot will give over 400 people who are leaving prison a home to call their own with the specialised support they need.

The inability to access safe and appropriate accommodation is a key cause of reoffending, and we are determined to ensure no one leaving prison is homeless on release.

I was proud to witness the Offender Accommodation Pilot in action on World Homelessness Day to see first-hand how we are supporting so many ex-offenders back into employment, back into independent living and back into the community.

In the 12 weeks up to their release date, offenders involved in the pilot receive intensive support, targeted to their individual needs, to tackle issues like alcohol and drug dependency. This is in addition to the help all offenders receive from work coaches, probation services and healthcare.

Following release, offenders are given up to 2 years of secure and stable accommodation – funded by their benefits where the local housing market permits – as well as bespoke assistance with employment, education, benefits and family engagement.

The scheme is part of the government's £100 million Rough Sleeping strategy which sets out to halve rough sleeping on England's streets by 2022.

Once the pilot has finished, it will be evaluated, with potential for it to be rolled out across the prison estate.

### **Notes to editors**

- The scheme was [announced](#) in November 2018
- The [Rough Sleeping Strategy](#) was launched in August 2018 and, backed by a £100 million investment, sets out to halve rough sleeping on England's streets by 2022 and end it altogether by 2027

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## **[Key city centre sites to be transformed by government investment](#)**

- Developments in Birmingham and Peterborough will provide city centre bases for thousands of civil servants in a boost to local businesses
- Scheme is part of Government's Hubs programme which promotes regional growth and saves taxpayers' money
- Birmingham site to save taxpayers annual £6m while Fletton Quays in Peterborough is at heart of £120m regeneration project

Two key city-centre sites are to be regenerated as part of a government programme designed to boost regional growth and save taxpayers' money.

The Government Hubs programme has so far seen the development of 14 office hubs around the country, providing civil servants with state-of-the-art working environments designed to boost efficiency and drive savings through increased efficiency.

Government Hubs bring together different departments under one roof – moving civil servants to inner-city sites located close to public transport connections, local amenities and shops.

The new hubs in Peterborough and Birmingham will be a massive boost to local businesses who can look forward to increased footfall and a combined 2,700 civil servants using the local amenities. The Birmingham hub alone is set to save taxpayers an annual £6m annually through improved efficiency.

The Minister for Implementation at the Cabinet Office, Simon Hart, said:

The opening of these new hubs is great news for local businesses in Birmingham and Peterborough.

Developing Government Hubs helps to bring forward vital regeneration projects across the country and boost local economies.

It also makes sure government workers have the best possible facilities and saves taxpayers' money by replacing outdated office blocks which are expensive to maintain with more modern facilities.

The new hub in Birmingham will be based at Platform 21, which is inside the former Woolworths building in the New Street Conservation area. The hub will be developed by LaSalle Investment Management working with development manager Evenacre and from 2021 will be home to about 1,700 civil servants.

The development is the second hub to be announced in Birmingham, following 3 Arena Central which will house a further 3,600 civil servants when it opens in 2021.

The Mayor of the West Midlands, Andy Street, said:

I am delighted to see the Platform 21 development in Birmingham has been chosen as the location for a Government Hub.

Simon and his team have recognised the city's great transport links and infrastructure, and the fact the city, and indeed the wider region, has so much to offer.

The West Midlands is going from strength to strength and I am delighted that the Government continues to support us.

In Peterborough, a development on the Fletton Quays site, close to the city centre, will provide space for about 1,000 government employees who will move into the building in 2021.

The development is part of a £120m regeneration of the Fletton Quays site led by Peterborough Investment Partnership and site developer Bride Hall.

Councillor John Holdich, leader of Peterborough City Council, said:

To have key government organisations secure a space at Fletton Quays is good news, both for the development and the city as a whole.

Fletton Quays represents a new age of growth and regeneration for Peterborough. These key additions to the site will bring footfall, recruitment and investment, as well as opening up the prospect of attracting additional Government jobs to Peterborough in the future.

As well as helping with the regeneration of key sites in Birmingham and Peterborough, the developments will free-up a number of government buildings in the area, releasing them for other uses.

Steven Boyd, the Chief Executive of the Government Property Agency, which is responsible for the hubs programme, said:

The Government Property Agency is at the heart of creating great places to work for civil servants. Our announcement today marks the start of a new phase in the Government Hubs programme and demonstrates real progress in delivering the commitments set out in the Government Estate Strategy.

The programme creates strong regional centres where civil servants can build their careers in state-of-the-art shared workspaces, enabling efficient, collaborative and flexible working, driving engagement and improving staff productivity and wellbeing.

This will reduce operating costs for the Government as we dispose of unnecessary office space and streamline our estate.

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## [UK pet food chomps Asia and Middle East markets](#)

With a significant rise in the number of pet-owners in recent years there has been a growing demand for pet food across the globe, presenting the perfect opportunity for UK businesses to capitalise.

British manufacturers are already finding success overseas as the UK exported £343.1 million worth of pet food around the world in 2018, which is a 5.6% increase on 2017.

Swindon-based Pet's Kitchen is a pet food business and vet clinic that only started exporting its premium pet food in Autumn last year, and in just 10 months has secured wins in 10 new countries including markets across Asia and the Middle East.

Founded in 2005, Pet's Kitchen has two business areas – Vet's Klinik, a state-of-the-art veterinary practice which has a progressive approach to treatment and sees over 130 pets a day, and Vet's Kitchen, a pet food brand that combines natural UK-sourced ingredients and veterinary expertise.

With support from the Department for International Trade (DIT) the company generated over £100,000 of revenue in the first six months of exporting. This year the company is expected to generate over £500,000 and within three years it is forecast to generate over £1million from international sales alone.

**Ben Hutton, Sales Director at Pet's Kitchen said:**

Exporting can be quite challenging but it is also very rewarding. The trends of humanisation, premiumisation, and health and wellness are prevalent now the world over.

Getting insights about your brand from potential new partners in Asia and the Middle East especially can lead to new challenges but also new opportunities. You see your brand from a brand-new perspective, with each country having a unique list of requirements and preferences and it's important to listen.

What works in one market may not work in in another, for example fish recipes in the UK don't sell so well but in Asia where fish is prevalent in the local cuisine, fish recipes are very popular.

DIT has been instrumental in helping us navigate various markets, from providing reference for potential new partners to exporting advice. I would encourage other UK companies that are considering exporting to contact DIT and see how they can help.

In South Korea, which is one of the fastest growing pet food markets in the world, the company secured a deal with a new distributor, Top Pet, which will see the Vet's Kitchen brand sold across speciality pet channels in the region. Similarly, a deal with FairPrice, the largest grocery chain in Singapore, will see the premium pet food brand sold in 40 stores across the country.

The company also secured an export deal with a pet food distributor in Hong Kong, and although a very small market for the company, it can be used to test the Chinese market for bigger opportunities. The revenue from each of these export wins totalled over £100,000 and is expected to double over the

next 12 months.

The Middle East is also a developing market for the company, as it has started trading with three new partners in the region – The Petshop LLC in the United Arab Emirates, which claims to be the largest pet store in the Middle East, a grocery chain called LuLu's which has 174 outlets across the Gulf regions, and Alosra which has a chain of nine supermarkets in Bahrain. The wins for this region are expected to increase by 200% over the next three years.

In 2020, Vet's Kitchen will be focussing on expanding its exports to target markets including Saudi Arabia, China, Thailand and Japan – which is the biggest pet food market in the world after the United States and the UK. Europe is also on the agenda and the brand has just reached an agreement with the largest grocery chain in the Republic of Ireland, Dunnes Stores.

**Paul Shand, DIT's Head of Trade in the South West, said:**

It is exciting to see just how much Pet's Kitchen has achieved internationally in such a short space of time, highlighting the growing global demand for pet food overseas.

In markets like the Middle East and Asia, British-made products are synonymous with quality which presents a golden opportunity for UK businesses to explore these international opportunities.

DIT has a network of expert International Trade Advisers on hand, and a team of specialists in over 100 markets, to help more businesses respond to this demand and navigate the entire exporting journey.

Vet's Kitchen is one of the fastest growing pet food brands in the UK according to Kantar, with a current annual turnover of £5 million.

The business currently employs 36 members of staff in Swindon, 25 of which are in Vet's Klinik. All are dedicated to improving the health and wellbeing of pets.

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## **UK boosts trade and investment partnership with Ghana**

International Development Minister Baroness Sugg visited Ghana last week to strengthen trade and investment ties ahead of the UK-Africa Investment Summit in 2020.

Co-hosting the UK-Ghana Business Council alongside the Ghanaian Vice-President Mahamudu Bawumia, Baroness Sugg discussed how UK aid and investment can help Ghana move beyond aid by creating jobs, boosting growth and driving its huge economic potential.

During her visit, Baroness Sugg launched a new partnership between the London Stock Exchange and the Ghana Stock Exchange, which will see the UK share its world-class City of London expertise to help Ghana become a regional hub for financial services.

She also championed the use of UK aid to help businesses in Ghana in a range of sectors. This includes helping garment companies scale up their exports globally and supporting agri-businesses become more productive, competitive and attractive for investors.

International Development Minister Baroness Sugg said:

Ghana is set to be one of the world's fastest-growing economies this year and our flourishing partnership is helping to create jobs, improve access to basic services and boost economic growth, all of which are vital to ending poverty.

Building strong African markets will help attract quality investment from around the world and encourage more trade in the future. The UK-Africa Investment Summit in London next year will help further unlock the potential of African nations.

The UK and Ghana already enjoy strong economic ties: UK imports of goods from Ghana increased by 143.7% in the year to April 2018.

Africa is home to some of the fastest emerging economies in the world and the UK-Africa Investment Summit 2020 will provide a platform to promote the breadth and quality of investment opportunities across Africa.

The Summit will bring together businesses, governments and international institutions and will be a key milestone towards achieving the UK's objective of becoming the largest G7 investor in Africa.

The UK will host the UK-Africa Investment Summit in London on 20 January 2020.

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## Notes to editors

- The UK-Ghana Business Council meeting was co-chaired by International Development Minister Baroness Sugg and the Vice President of the Republic of Ghana, His Excellency Alhaji Dr. Mahamudu Bawumia and attended by key Cabinet ministers.
- Baroness Sugg attended the third meeting of the UK-Ghana Business Council which builds on previous agreements to focus on six priority



sectors: agri-processing, financial services, textiles and garments, pharma, digital and extractives.