

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 08 March 2021 00:18
To: [Redacted]
Subject: RE: Annabel - call with [Redacted] - 9/3

[Redacted]
– as requested. Thanks for pulling this together
[Redacted]
Thanks,

Benchmark

- Benchmark Holdings is a commercial company with a mission statement to ‘enable food producers to improve their sustainability and profitability’ and an aim of being ‘aquaculture’s leading supplier of solutions in genetics, health and advanced nutrition’. [Who We Are – Benchmark Holdings plc \(LON:BMK\) \(benchmarkplc.com\)](#)
- There are two possible issues which could be raised: Regulatory support for Cleantreat and [Redacted]

Cleantreat and BMK08 - sea lice treatment technology

- Cleantreat is Benchmark’s new water purification system which removes medicines from fish treatment water prior to discharge to the sea. Benchmark proposes to use the purification system alongside a new sea lice treatment (BMK08) it is developing. If successful it could be a breakthrough for both the industry since it could effectively reduce chemical discharge and environmental impact.
- The system, which has undergone initial development work in Scotland, has been undergoing field trials in Norway.
- There is only a limited variety of medicines available to treat sea lice - some which are developed are limited in their effectiveness by the dosage permitted due to environmental concerns. CleanTreat together with ‘BMK08’ is promoted as a new approach without environmental concerns arising from discharge.
- Previous dialogue between SEPA, MS and Benchmark sought to address regulatory issues - final discharge must meet an appropriate Environmental Quality Standard in accordance with EU procedures (which are now enshrined in domestic law) even in a trial. [Redacted]
- Benchmark’s website says it plans for the system to launch in the second half of 2021, subject to regulatory approval. To the best of our knowledge no application to SEPA has been made, [Redacted]

Lines

- Recognise the breakthrough benefits that Cleantreat could bring to treating sea lice.

- Understand that there had been dialogue between MS, Benchmark and SEPA in the past to help it navigate the regulatory approach here, and advice had been given. Benchmark agreed to provide information which will allow a full application to be submitted to Marine Scotland.
- However to the best of our knowledge (noting difficulties with SEPA) we are unaware that an application has actually come forward.
- We can't circumnavigate SEPA's consideration as they have to follow legal process, but there is a newly invigorated dedication within SG and across regulators to support innovation in the aquaculture sector - am confident this will be given welcomed consideration when an application is received.
- We're interested in the results of the Norwegian trials and we'll endeavour to liaise with the authorities about their experience. We support a good evidence base in decision making.
- [Redacted]

From: [Redacted] @gov.scot>

Sent: 04 March 2021 11:45

To: [Redacted] @gov.scot>; [Redacted]

@gov.scot>; [Redacted]

[Redacted] @gov.scot>

Subject: FW: Annabel - call with [Redacted] - 9/3

[Redacted]

Is there an update we can add on benchmark for this briefing?

Thanks

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]

Sent: 02 March 2021 14:02

To: [Redacted] @gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Annabel - call with [Redacted] - 9/3

Hi [Redacted], if you have anything on benchmark could you send it through please.

Thanks

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted] @gov.scot>

Sent: 01 March 2021 17:17

To: [Redacted] @gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Annabel - call with [Redacted] - 9/3

[Redacted]

Cross purposes from [Redacted] there – I started a conversation last week with [Redacted] about cleantreat and benchmark and was typing a note to MSLOT when [Redacted] put her request out – I saw it coming through another arising issue !

Happy to let the conversation run but if it helps I'll offer something on benchmark.

[Redacted]