Thanks so much for having us to give evidence yesterday on Lyme Disease – it was a great discussion.

During the roundtable Maurice Corry asked Kathleen about the comments below in our written evidence and whether we were aware of any existing efforts to achieve this:

We would support a public information campaign that takes a joined-up ‘One Health’ approach to promoting awareness of Lyme Disease, areas of high disease risk, how to prevent Lyme Disease and how to navigate different care pathways, both veterinary and medical, if someone suspects a tick bite on themselves or their animal. We believe any information campaign should be supported by relevant stakeholders spanning the veterinary profession, the medical profession and relevant representative bodies within this, representative organisations of rural workers, Government, local authorities and land owners.

To our knowledge we aren’t aware of any joint campaigning activity across stakeholders, however as one of the other witnesses outlined, there is veterinary input via Dominic Mellor who we understand works closely with Health Protection Scotland on the issue.

On this note, we’d like to draw the committee’s attention to the Scottish Government’s Buy a puppy safely information campaign. This is a great example of government-led messaging to ensure consistency of key messages, supported by a range of stakeholders to reach different audiences. We’d support a similar government-led approach to raise awareness of Lyme Disease and how to prevent it.