

DRAFT.

Your reference
Our reference

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

HANNIBAL HOUSE Room No. 914

ELEPHANT AND CASTLE LONDON SE1 6TE

TELEX 883669 TELEPHONE

972 2153

GTN (2916)

BACK

- 1) No details
- 2) ^{CSM guidelines} ~~CSM~~ ^{to case-} ~~CSM~~ ^{framed} products
- of proven medicinal benefit ^{Established risk v benefit}

January 1990

DRAFT LETTER

- 2) Replies para 1, 2, dcl 3

public recs
we would ~~not~~ ^{strongly} ~~discuss~~ ^{raise}
Happy to have discussion
to clarify ^{ambiguities} ~~ambiguities~~ of
mutual responsibility
you reply to

Mr R Roscoe
Consumer Affairs
Department of Trade and Industry
10-18 Victoria Street
London SW1

Dear Richard

USE OF BOVINE OFFAL IN COSMETICS - BOVINE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY

I am replying to your request for advice on the safety of the use of extracts of bovine offal in cosmetics, with respect to BSE. As you are aware there are a number of cosmetic products on sale in the UK that contain small amounts of such extracts, primarily from spleen and thymus.

Whilst accepting that any risk is likely to be very low, we believe that it would be prudent to take similar action to that already taken by MAFF in the Food Area. Where cosmetic formulations ^{contain} use extracts of bovine offal derived from UK cattle, they should ensure that this is obtained only from animals of under 6 months of age. Alternatively they should consider the use of material derived from outside the UK.

We accept that the risk of transference by the oral route is likely to be negligible, and that it is even less likely to be transmitted through intact skin. However cut or abraded skin would not offer as effect a barrier, and it would be wise not to use preparations where there is any chance of infection.

We would be grateful if you would transmit these recommendations to industry via the Trade Association CTPA.

I attach a background briefing that you may find useful.

Yours sincerely

163

90/01.00/5.1

DR R J FIELDER

+ DIGGLE.

FRIDAY

12-1