

URGENT

Dr Harvey PS/CMO

From: Dr Ailsa Wight HEF1C

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Copies: Dr Metters DCMO
 Dr Rubery HEF
 Dr Skinner HEF1
 Mr Lister HEF1C
 Ms French ID
 Mr Eddy MAFF

CJD IN FARMERS

1. CMO will wish to be aware of a probable case of CJD in a 59 year old farmer from N.Wales.
2. If he is confirmed as suffering from CJD, this brings the total number of cases in farmers in the UK to four. CMO will recall that earlier advice the SEAC had from Professor Peter Smith (LSHTM) was that the occurrence of a fourth case (in a dairy farmer) would be of serious concern.
3. The patient remains alive. We understand he has a beef, rather than a dairy herd but had a confirmed case of BSE in his herd four years ago. The CJD Unit hope to visit tomorrow, Friday, and more details will be available then.
4. There is some urgency in dealing with this as the case is already in the public domain - BBC Wales are making a programme which refers to this case. In addition, *The Lancet* articles on the third UK farmer and on the European situation are to be published tomorrow. Together, these factors are very likely to provoke wider interest.
5. I have informed MAFF and we plan to hold an emergency meeting of SEAC, including John Pattison and Bob Will, as soon as possible, probably early next week.
6. We will keep CMO informed of developments and will give details of the situation in the submission to PS(L) on publication of the CJD Unit's Fourth Annual Report, which will follow tomorrow.
7. For the moment we can do no more than hold to our line that *"we are aware of the case, the necessary investigations are underway and that we cannot comment further at present."*

DR AILSA WIGHT
 HEF1C
 Room 534B SKH
 ☎ 25357

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