

E-Mail

TO: Dr A Wight

FROM: Dr J S Metters

DATE: 18 October 1993

CC: Dr McGovern
Mr ListerOCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURE TO BSE AND CJD

1. Many thanks for your minute of 11 October which followed the Tyrrell Committee's discussion of the two cases of CJD in dairy farmers.
2. I note the Committee have asked for data to be collected on occupational exposure groups in other countries, but decided not to make any enquiries in this country about the practice of farmers and farm workers tasting animal feeds. For the reasons given in my minute of 6 October, I think that is a pity, but we cannot force the Committee's hand.
3. While the Committee may have no leads to pursue on why farmers might be at increased risk, I hope they understand the urgency with which they will need to respond if or when a third farmer develops CJD.
4. On a different point, I welcome the MRC's prompt agreement to fund the rodent inoculation of the two farmers brains. If subsequent work shows that the changes were typical of CJD, rather than BSE, that would indeed be reassuring.

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