

BSE INQUIRY

PRELIMINARY EVIDENCE RELATING TO THE OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (AND ITS PREDECESSORS) AND THE GOVERNMENT'S CHIEF SCIENTIFIC ADVISER

BACKGROUND

1. The Committee may find helpful background information about the role of the Chief Scientific Adviser (CSA) and the Office of Science and Technology (OST), and the arrangements which preceded the current ones.

CURRENT ARRANGEMENTS

Role of the Chief Scientific Adviser (CSA)

2. The CSA is responsible for providing, or organising the provision of, advice to the Prime Minister and the Cabinet Office on scientific and technological (S&T) matters, or S&T aspects of other issues. He is concerned to influence positively the economic contribution from Government spending in S&T. He sits on the principal interdepartmental committees which deal with the S&T issues which come before Government. He also has a general responsibility for co-ordination of international S&T relationships and is the Government's scientific representative on many international occasions.

3. The CSA's role was defined in the 1987 Command Paper "Civil R&D" (Cm 185) which recognised a need for a strengthened central structure to consider S&T issues as a whole, including collective Ministerial consideration of S&T priorities, the co-ordinating work of the CSA, and the independent work of the Government's main advisory body on S&T (ACOST - see on).

4. The CSA's role has not changed since then, but the CSA is now also the head of the Office of Science and Technology (OST) within the Department of Trade and Industry. In this capacity, apart from advising the President of the Board of Trade on S&T matters, he is responsible for carrying forward the OST's transdepartmental activities. These include advising Ministers on issues arising on S&T expenditure and effort across Government, and co-ordinating activity, at three different levels:

- strategic issues, in relation to funding, balance and direction of S&T activity;
- managerial or good practice issues- e.g. the way Government procures and uses S&T to inform policy;
- key cross-departmental policy issues - in which S&T advice is a significant factor, e.g. BSE, global warming.

5. The CSA oversees production of the annual "Forward Look" document which reports on S&T spending plans across Government (1994-date).

6. The Council for Science and Technology (CST) provides the Government with independent, high level advice on S&T policy. It is chaired by the President of the Board of Trade, and the CSA is Deputy Chairman. The Prime Minister appoints the independent members of CST, drawn from the most senior ranks of the business and scientific communities. CST has not discussed BSE or associated issues.

7. The CSA chairs EASO - and has chaired its predecessors - the Cabinet Committee of Departmental Chief Scientists with a joint secretariat from the OST and the Cabinet Office.

8. One of the CSA's staff is the UK member of CREST, the Committee that advises both the EC Council of Ministers and the Commission on research issues. BSE research has been included in the European Framework Programmes for a number of years. In the time available we have not been able to establish whether CREST has ever specifically discussed BSE.

9. The CSA is supported by the Transdepartmental Science and Technology Group (TDST) in the OST.

Role of the Director-General of Research Councils (DGRC)

10. The CSA has oversight of all R&D across Government. Therefore, to avoid a possible or perceived conflict of interest, the Director-General of Research Councils (DGRC) in the OST is responsible - separately from the CSA - for supporting and advising the President of the Board of Trade on securing the successful operation of the seven Research Councils in pursuit of their missions. This includes advising on the allocation of the £1.3bn Science Budget from which the Councils are funded, and articulating a broad framework, reflecting Government and other priorities, in which the Councils can decide what science to fund and how. Successive Governments have endorsed the Haldane principle that day-to-day decisions on the scientific merits of different strategies, programmes and projects should be taken by the Research Councils, without Government involvement.

11. Illustrations of the way the principle works are the decisions taken by the Agricultural and Food Research Council (AFRC) to fund basic research into scrapie over many years, and by the AFRC and Medical Research Council to establish and jointly fund the Neuropathogenesis Unit in Edinburgh in 1981. The Unit, now part of the Institute for Animal Health, has played a key part in increasing our understanding of TSEs.

12. The DGRC is supported by the OST's Science and Engineering Base Group (SEBG). Neither the DGRC nor the SEBG has scientific responsibilities as such, for example in terms of judging the validity of scientific evidence.

PREVIOUS ARRANGEMENTS

13. In July 1995 the President of the Board of Trade took over Cabinet-level, Ministerial responsibility for S&T policy, including the responsibility for the Science Budget, from the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (CDL). The OST was transferred from the Office of Public Service and Science (OPSS) within the Cabinet Office to the Department of Trade and Industry, but the roles of the CSA, DGRC and OST were unchanged by this move.

14. Cabinet-level, Ministerial responsibility for S&T policy - including the responsibility for the Science Budget which had been until then exercised by the Secretary of State for Education and Science - was concentrated in the CDL in May 1992. The OST was formed at the same time from the CSA's Science and Technology Secretariat in the Cabinet Office and the Science Branch of the Department of Education and Science (DES). The CSA became head of the OST which was sited in the OPSS.

15. Apart from responsibilities associated with becoming head of the OST, the CSA's responsibilities remained unaffected by the creation of the OST. Similarly, the role of the CSA's Secretariat was broadly the same as the present role of the TDST in OST, though the TDST has taken on additional functions.

16. The role of the previous DES Science Branch was also broadly the same as the current DGRC and SEBG within the OST. However, up until the financial year 1993-94 advice on the size and allocation of the Science Budget was provided to Ministers by the Advisory Board for the Research Councils (ABRC) and the ABRC also had some responsibilities for promoting the co-ordination and efficiency of the Research Council system. Its members included the CSA and some Departmental Chief Scientists, including MAFF's, and it had its own Secretariat of officials.

17. The ABRC was abolished following the 1993 SET White Paper, and the post of DGRC created with effect from January 1994.

18. There were other changes following the SET White Paper in May 1993:

- the Research Councils were restructured with effect from April 1994. While the Medical Research Council (MRC) remained unchanged, the Agricultural and Food Research Council (AFRC) became the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC), taking over responsibility for the biological sciences from the then Science and Engineering Research Council. The Councils also received clearer missions - to promote and

support high-quality research and related postgraduate training, placing special emphasis on meeting the needs of the users of their research and training outputs, thereby enhancing the UK's competitiveness and quality of life;

- the CST was established in autumn 1993 in succession to the Advisory Council on Science and Technology (ACOST).

19. The Inquiry has specifically asked about ACOST. ACOST was established following the 1987 Command Paper "Civil R&D", replacing its predecessor, the Advisory Council for Applied R&D (ACARD). ACOST's terms of reference were to advise the Government on:

- priorities for S&T in the UK;
- the application of S&T, developed in the UK and elsewhere, for the benefit of both public and private sectors in accordance with national needs;
- the co-ordination, in collaboration with Departmental Advisory Bodies, of S&T activities;
- the nature and extent of UK participation in international S&T collaboration,

and to publish reports as appropriate. The CSA was the prime link between ACOST, of which he was a member, and the Government, and played a key role in planning its work.

20. We are aware of a published report from ACARD in 1982 on "The Food Industry and Technology". This predated the BSE crisis. We are still checking later papers for any references to BSE, but an initial check has not found any indication it was discussed. For this reason, this evidence does not include names of ACOST members, but the OST would be happy to provide these if the Inquiry so wished. Professor Roy Anderson (Linacre Professor of Zoology at the University of Oxford) was a member of ACOST from July 1991.

ACTIVITY RELATING TO BSE AND nv CJD

Activity by the CSA

1988

21. The CSA's office received a copy of the Chief Medical Officer's submission of 21 March alerting Health Department Ministers to BSE and the possible implications for human health, and advising on the setting up of an expert working party. Professor Southwood had been invited to chair this Group.

1990-1991

22. At present we can find nothing further on our files until 1990. Dr Wingfield (CSA's office) copied the Southwood and Tyrrell reports to the CSA on 4/6/90 and commented in a covering note that the reports did not square with assertions of safety by MAFF. The CSA therefore asked Professor Stewart (Secretary of the Agriculture and Food Research Council (AFRC)) for advice.
23. The CSA received in return (15/6/90) a copy of the AFRC evidence sent to the House of Commons Agriculture Committee investigating BSE and a letter from Professor Bourne at the Institute for Animal Health (IAH). The AFRC evidence summarised that recent research on BSE had confirmed that BSE is a scrapie-like disease of cattle and that the risk of transmission of BSE to man was remote. However, the evidence also said that the risk of cattle-to-cattle transmission and calf-to-calf transmission must also be considered a possibility. Dr Wingfield commented on this to the CSA and expressed concern that inaction on a slaughter policy would lead to greater problems later on.
24. As a result of this, and following further conversations Dr Wingfield had with Professor Stewart and Professor Bourne, the CSA wrote to Dr Tyrrell, who chaired the Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee (SEAC) on 26/6/90. The letter said that any assurances given to the public should be qualified given that the cause of BSE and scrapie in sheep were unidentified, and that measures to control the disease may be insufficient. This was followed up by the CSA meeting with Dr Tyrrell and Professor Stewart on 9/7/90. Dr Tyrrell summarised the position on the current research orally - there was no evidence of cow-to-calf transmission at that time. SEAC was also about to make a report recommending a nation-wide system of recording the herd. Dr Tyrrell indicated that steps were being taken to improve epidemiology. The meeting also expressed more general concerns about MAFF's handling of research, including alleged delays in responding to good research proposals.
25. On 27/9/90 CSA's office (Mr Nickless) minuted on a conversation with MAFF officials about their proposal to appoint a BSE research co-ordinator (this was copied to the CSA, who was now Professor Stewart). Our papers record possible difficulties with this approach (see below for fuller details from DES papers). In the event MAFF decided not to proceed, and instead decided to look to Dr Tyrrell's Committee to take on the role. The CSA was copied Mr Andrew's (Permanent Secretary at MAFF) letter of 29 November 1990 to the Permanent Secretary of the Department for Education and Science (Mr Caines), which informed the CSA of this decision.
26. In October 1990 the CSA wrote to the MAFF Permanent Secretary, Mr Andrews, that they discuss contracting some BSE epidemiological work to Professor Roy Anderson. Mr Andrews replied on 5 November, saying they

referred in house alternatives at the Central Veterinary Laboratory (CVL), whose team was being strengthened, and whose work would be examined by an expert visiting group in the near future.

27. In December 1990 the CSA's office advised the CSA about maternal transmission of BSE in antelopes at London Zoo, following a conversation between Mr Nickless (CSA's office) and Dr Kirkwood, senior veterinary officer at London Zoo. This conversation reinforced views in the CSA's office that the CVL epidemiological modelling should be subject to independent review and noted that Professor Anderson had not yet gained access to the relevant data. Following a conversation with Professor Anderson, the CSA's office noted in January 1991 that, although the data had not yet been forthcoming, Dr Tyrrell had invited Professor Anderson and two other academics to participate as independent reviewers at a meeting looking at results of recent BSE research. Our papers do not record the results of this meeting, or if in fact it took place.

1993

28. In September 1993 the CSA asked for an update on the state of knowledge on BSE and CJD, which his office provided after consulting the IAH, MRC, DH, CJD Surveillance Unit at the University of Edinburgh and the CJD Co-ordinating Centre at Jessop Hospital in Sheffield.

29. The Cabinet Official Committee on Science and Technology, EDS(O), also discussed a note on 17 September on CJD and BSE. This note recorded the known incidence of CJD at that time, reports on the possible connection with human pituitary gonadotropin (hPG) and human growth hormone (hGH), reports on research into CJD and BSE and the work of SEAC.

30. In November the CSA's office informed the CSA of the conclusions of the MAFF's most recent progress report on the incidence of BSE in Great Britain.

1994

31. On 1 July the CSA wrote to the Permanent Secretary at MAFF, Mr Packer, expressing surprise that he was not consulted about the announcement extending the ban on Specified Bovine Offals to certain calf offal made by MAFF on 30 June. The CSA also requested a scientific briefing. Mr Packer replied on 6 July, saying that he thought MAFF was right to handle the announcement as it had, given the need to take very urgent action in the light of research results. MAFF sent the requested scientific briefing on BSE to the CSA in September, and MAFF confirmed that there were no major research findings expected in the near future. The CSA responded in October and asked to be kept informed of future developments and announcements.

32. In July 1994 the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster proposed, at a Cabinet meeting, that the CSA should play a part in explaining to the public the Government's position on the EU Veterinary Report. The Prime Minister agreed with this and Mrs Shephard agreed to keep the CSA informed of developments. In the event however, MAFF decided that the Chief Veterinary Officer would field any media bids. In the light of this and MAFF's announcement of 30 June, the CSA asked to meet the Chief Veterinary officer (Mr Meldrum) and Dr Tyrrell, Chairman of SEAC, to brief him on the current status of evidence relating to BSE and related issues. The papers are not clear as to whether these meetings took place. A meeting with Dr Tyrrell was due to take place on 27 July, but appears to have been cancelled due to a train strike. Indications are that the CSA may have spoken to Dr Tyrrell and Mr Meldrum by telephone, but the papers cannot confirm this.

1996 onwards

33. In November the CSA was asked to provide advice to the Prime Minister on whether "anything more needs to be done to ensure that research into the protein typing of BSE, scrapie and CJD and the development of live tests to diagnose them is taken forward and co-ordinated in the UK in as effective and urgent a manner as possible." The CSA provided this advice, which resulted, among other things, in the setting up of a high level Committee, chaired by Sir Robin Butler, to monitor and chase progress, which first met on 30 January 1997. The advice also covered the need to strengthen epidemiological work and more generally broaden the expertise of UK Committees, including SEAC, and also the need to strengthen co-ordination of research across Government.

CSA and his officials

CSAs

Sir John Fairclough (1986-90)
Sir William Stewart (September 1990-95)
Sir Robert May (1995 - present)

CSA office officials

Allocations of responsibility changed over time and it is not always clear when the handover took place, if it did not coincide with BSE related activity.

Grade 3

Mr C R Walker (? - 1991)
[Mr R Foster (1991 - 1993)]

Mrs Williams (1993 - present)

Grade 5

Mr de Grouchy (1994 - 1998)

Grade 7

Dr Nich Wingfield (?-1990)

Mr Nickless (1990 -91)

Ms Gray (1993)

Dr Lynn (1993-94)

(Note - after this date responsibility at Grade 7 transferred to Mr Jennings and Ms Lloyd in the Science and Engineering Base Group - see list later)

Activity by the DGRC (and predecessors)

34. In the context of the BSE Inquiry, the main roles of the DGRC, SEBG and their predecessors have been:

- in response to the emerging evidence, advising Ministers on the need for additional Science Budget funding for further research by the AFRC/ BBSRC and MRC (most obviously in 1989 and in 1996);
- promoting suitable co-ordination of the research effort both between the two Research Councils concerned, and between the Councils and the interested Government Departments, principally MAFF and the Department of Health.

35. The main actions are summarised below, followed by a list of the officials involved. Apart from copies of SEAC papers and minutes of ABRC and Research Council meetings, the papers on file for the period until 20 March 1996 are working papers - principally internal minutes, submissions to Ministers, and correspondence with other Departments.

March 1989 - January 1990

36. AFRC's PES bid included a request for additional funds for "slow virus" research, including BSE. Discussing this in March in the context of wider Government support for BSE research, ABRC members commented that they were not convinced that there was effective co-ordination in this field at present.

37. In response to the Tyrrell Committee's interim report in June 1989, recommending increased BSE research, DES Science Branch liaised with the ABRC, AFRC, MRC and MAFF on how to make more funds available. The Chief Secretary to the Treasury rejected a MAFF-led initiative seeking additional funding

from the reserve in 1989-90 and from the PES in future years. However, in December - January, the Secretary of State for Education and Science approved and announced the ABRC's advice to increase additional funding from the Science Budget for the AFRC worth £6.3m over 3 years. This was for "slow virus" research, including BSE. It enabled the AFRC to launch a programme in December 1990 worth £9m over 4 years.

38. DES initially obtained a copy of the Tyrrell report from Department of Health (DH) officials. DES officials noted in their papers that MAFF did not authorise them to release it to AFRC and MRC until August 1989, but the Councils almost certainly had sight of it before then as Council employees sat on the then Tyrrell group. DES officials also observed that MAFF did not consult them on the (in the event unsuccessful) bid to the Treasury. The announcements of additional funding for BSE research by MAFF and DES in January 1990 were not co-ordinated.

January - May 1990

39. Following a visit with the AFRC Secretary to the AFRC/ MRC Neuropathogenesis Unit in Edinburgh, DES officials considered alerting their Secretary of State - after consultation with others including MAFF and DH - to the fears expressed to them by researchers at the Unit that BSE could jump the species barrier.

40. There appears to be no paper record that this idea went any further at that time. However, in May 1990 DES Science Branch submitted a situation report to the Secretary of State on AFRC's current understanding of BSE, based on advice from the Director of the Institute for Animal Health (Professor Bourne). It is possible this report was distributed more widely to other Government Departments.

August - October 1990

41. DES became involved in difficulties over the recruitment by AFRC of a new head of the Neuropathogenesis Unit. Although an individual had been identified, pay and grading regulations would normally have prohibited AFRC paying him the level of salary necessary to recruit him. The Department of Health (DH) was concerned that the uncertainties were damaging the research effort. After obtaining Treasury agreement, DES authorised AFRC to offer a higher than normal salary in order to recruit the preferred candidate.

August 1990 - October 1991

42. There was a protracted exchange of correspondence between MAFF and the DES at Permanent Secretary level about co-ordination of BSE research, and much related discussion and correspondence between MAFF, DH, DES and Research Council officials. MAFF initially proposed a "supremo" for the job, but

after further consideration proposed instead that the Tyrrell Committee should take on the co-ordinating role. There was then further correspondence about the nature of Research Council involvement and representation. In October 1991 Sir David Phillips (ABRC Chairman) arranged a meeting of the Research Councils, MAFF and DH.

43. The meeting note records a number of agreed points about research co-ordination, in particular that: co-operation between AFRC and MRC was well-established; there was scope to improve the co-ordinating role of the Tyrrell Committee, but it was not competent to formulate the direction of research or to direct research programmes; and the method of working and membership of the Committee should be reviewed, particularly the question of Research Council assessors attending all meetings (not just relevant parts as MAFF/ DES had previously agreed) and possibly the addition of new expert members. The points noted by the meeting had surfaced in much of the discussion in the preceding months.

44. We can find no file record of what subsequently happened, but AFRC and MRC appear to have attended SEAC as observers from around November 1991 until November 1997. DES Science Branch received SEAC papers from April 1991, and its successors continued to do so.

December 1995

45. The DGRC met Dr David Gordon, Wellcome Trust, and Professor Collinge, Imperial College, to discuss the science and co-ordination of research into transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSEs).

December 1995 - March 1996

46. Correspondence between the President of the Board of Trade on the one hand and the MAFF Minister and Secretary of State for Scotland on the other concerning proposed redundancies and future funding arrangements at the BBSRC/ MRC Neuropathogenesis Unit. The issue was soon overtaken by events.

11 March 1996

47. The DGRC alerted DTI Ministers and the CSA to discovery of nv CJD on the basis of a letter from the MRC Chief Executive of the same date.

March 1996 - present

48. Following the 20 March 1996 announcement, events have followed a broadly similar pattern to that following the Tyrrell Committee report. In brief:

- a) the DGRC and SEBG discussed the need for additional research funding with the BBSRC, MRC, and other Government Departments. This resulted in an additional £17m over 3 years being made available to the BBSRC and MRC from the Science Budget; increasing the Councils' total expenditure on TSE-related research to £30m over the 3-year period;
- b) the commitment of additional funding for TSE research from the Science Budget as well as by Government Departments led, as in 1990, to fresh consideration of research co-ordination. The main outcomes now reached are:
- the TSE R&D Funders Co-ordination Group, chaired by the Director of R&D, DH;
 - a High-Level Committee to monitor progress on research relating to TSEs;
 - Secretariat of the Funders Co-ordination Group attends SEAC as an observer.

List of officials - DGRC and OST's SEBG and predecessors

49. The names of officials at G7 and, to a lesser extent, G5 level are currently not known for the earlier years. The OST will investigate further if the Committee wishes, but we do not believe any of these people had any involvement in BSE-related issues. Similarly, those listed in square brackets are not known to have had any involvement though they held posts whose responsibilities notionally included such matters.

50. Allocation of responsibilities at G5 and G7 level changed over time, and it is often difficult to identify when hand-overs took place if there was no concurrent BSE-related activity.

51. Some officials at G7 have or had discrete responsibility for either the AFRC/ BBSRC or MRC. However, the activities in which all the officials listed were or are involved are basically the same, as set out above, and there is little point in differentiating between them.

Department of Education and Science (to May 1992 only)

Permanent Secretary

[Sir David Hancock (1985-89)]
Sir John Caines (1990 - 1992)

Grade 2 (Further and Higher Education and Science)

[R H Bird (1985-88)]

J M M Vereker (1989 - 1992)

Grade 3 (Head of Science Branch)

[D W Tanner (1985 - 89)]

D A Wilkinson (1990 - 1992)

Grade 5

[R P Norton (1985-87)]

G J Mungeam (1988?-1989)

Miss J Partington (1990 - 1992)

Grade 7

J Dando (? - 1992)

P Hodgman (? - 1992)

Advisory Board for the Research Councils (to December 1993 only)

Chairman

Sir David Phillips

Secretary

[Mrs H Williams (1984 - 87)]

P J Thorpe (1987 -1991)

D G Libby (1991 - 1993)

Secretariat

?

Ms A Coates

Dr A Williams

Office of Science and Technology Science and Engineering Base Group

Director-General of Research Councils

(Acting) Sir David Phillips (until December 1993)

Sir John Cadogan (1994 -)

Grade 3 (Head of Science and Engineering Base Group)

D Wilkinson (1992 - 1995)

T Quigley (1995 -)

Grade 5

Dr J Partington (1992 - 1994)

A Carter (1994 - 1996)

Grade 7

P Hodgman (1992)

J Dando (1992)

D Timms (1993)

J Lyle (1993)

R Jennings (1994 - 1996)

P Lloyd (1996 - 1997)

B Newbound (1996 -)

Office of Science and Technology
26 February 1998

RECORD OF OST AND PREDECESSORS' INTEREST IN BSE

FILE REF	DATE	ACTION
ST 190/3	20/4/88	CSA's (Fairclough) office copied CMO's (Acheson) submission of 21/3/88 alerting DH Ministers to BSE and possible implications for human health, and advising setting up of expert working party. [Southwood and Tyrrell reports followed.]
10037/15/12 B	8/3/89	In considering AFRC's PES bid that year (which included slow virus/ BSE research) and an account of Government funding of BSE research from the MAFF Chief Scientist (Dr Shannon), ABRC members commented that they were not convinced that there was effective co-ordination in this field at present.
10001/84	20/6/89	Alerted by DH, DES Science Branch (Wilkinson) alerts Secretary of State (MacGregor) to Tyrrell Committee report calling for more BSE research in specified areas. [Tyrrell Director of MRC's Common Cold Unit; John Bourne, Director of AFRC Institute for Animal Health (IAH), a Committee member.]
	22/6/89	DES (Dando/ Mungeam) considers consulting ABRC, AFRC, MRC, DH and MAFF on whether Tyrrell provides case for increasing current Council PES bids, but defers further action pending advice from MAFF (?).
	1/8/89	MAFF Minister (Gummer) proposes to Clarke, MacGregor etc publishing Tyrrell report and announcing funding of additional research from the reserve in 1989-90 and by adjusting PES bids in respect of future years.
	4/8/89	DES (Mungeam) notes DES officials not consulted on this proposal, and now takes advice from AFRC/ MRC on funding needed.
	9/8/89	DES briefs Secretary of State on proposal, noting MAFF had only recently authorised disclosure of Tyrrell report to AFRC/ MRC [but had separate access to it?], and advising a holding reply pending advice from the Councils.
	8-9/8/89	MRC and AFRC advise DES of additional expenditure required for additional research.
	18/8/89	DES Ministers agree to publication of Tyrrell report.
	23/8/89	DES submission to Secretary of State recommends endorsing MAFF proposal.
	19/9/89	Secretary of State agrees to MAFF proposal and related announcement, subject to Treasury acceptance.
	21/9/89	DES and AFRC discuss options if Treasury reject proposal.
	2/10/89	Chief Secretary to Treasury (Lamont) rules out use of reserve or additional expenditure in future years, recommending instead

		reprioritisation of Science Budget and MAFF research programme, and industry funding.
	29/11/89	As part of Science Budget allocations, ABRC recommends approval of AFRC PES bid for increased funding of slow virus research, including BSE.
	9/1/90	DES officials consider alerting Secretary of State to fears expressed to them on a visit to IAH's Neuropathogenesis Unit that BSE can jump species barrier.
	10/1/90	Secretary of State approves and announces increase for AFRC BSE-related research as part of Science Budget allocations. (Not synchronised with similar MAFF announcement the previous day.)
190/3	12/1/90	CSA's office (Wingfield) briefs CSA (Fairclough) on MAFF/ AFRC spend on BSE research.
	-/4/90	Tyrrell Committee reconstituted without AFRC/ MRC representation [reported in AFRC letter to MAFF of 10/5/91].
10001/84	16/5/90	DES submits report to Secretary of State on AFRC understanding of BSE and current research programme.
ST 190/3	22/5/90	CSA's office (Wingfield) briefs CSA on state of play, based on copy of AFRC note.
10001/84	31/5/90	DES copied in on AFRC complaint to CVO (Meldrum) about slowness of MAFF response to research proposals.
ST 190/3	4/6/90	CSA's office (Wingfield) briefs CSA on Southwood and Tyrrell reports - "the assertions of safety by the Ministry do not square with what the reports actually say" - and proposes meeting with Secretary of AFRC, Prof Stewart, and Bourne with view to possible briefing of PM.
	7/6/90	CSA writes to Prof Stewart.
	15/6/90	Prof Stewart responds with briefing from Bourne and AFRC evidence to Commons Select Committee.
	18/6/90	CSA's office (Wingfield) comments on AFRC briefing.
	26/6/90	CSA writes to Tyrrell "I conclude that any assurances given to the public concerning risk must be qualified... [Also] measures to control the disease and to regulate slaughterhouse practice may be insufficient... If we do not act quickly and soundly then we will be creating a very much bigger problem. Even if human health is not at risk, the livestock industry in the UK may be."
	9/7/90	CSA (and Roy Walker) meet Tyrrell and Stewart. Tyrrell summarised the position, e.g. steps being taken to improve tracking and epidemiology.
	9/8/90	MAFF Permanent Secretary (Andrews) proposes to DES Permanent Secretary (Caines) a "supremo" to co-ordinate BSE research.
	9/8/90	DES (Partington) advises Caines on MAFF proposal.

	10/8/90	Caines agrees with Andrews need for further discussions, with MAFF taking lead. [These ran into difficulties because of the different approaches which MAFF and DES/ Research Councils took to handling research.]
10001/141	28/8/90	DES became involved in AFRC/ MRC discussions about finding a new head for the Neuropathogenesis Unit. Department of Health concerned that the post had been vacant for some time.
ST 190/3	27/9/90	CSA's office (Nickless) reports to CSA (Stewart) on MAFF proposal for BSE research co-ordinator.
	2/10/90	CSA asks Andrews whether worth discussing Prof Roy Anderson's involvement in BSE epidemiology, i.e. MAFF contracting work from him.
10001/141	10/10/90	After obtaining Treasury agreement, DES authorises AFRC to offer higher than normal salary in order to recruit preferred candidate to head NPU.
10001/84	-/10/90	Bourne writes to CVO about lack of AFRC contact with Tyrrell Committee [reported in AFRC letter to MAFF 10/5/91].
ST 190/3	5/11/90	Andrews declines to involve Prof Anderson in BSE epidemiology, preferring in-house alternatives backed up by exposure to external scrutiny.
	9/11/90	CSA responds to Andrews to note this decision.
10001/84	23/11/90	Caines notes no sign of progress over research co-ordination; action still with MAFF.
10001/84	29/11/90	Andrews informs Caines that MAFF/ DH now proposing Tyrrell Committee take over research co-ordination role.
ST 190/3	29/11/90	CSA copied in on proposal.
1001/84	5/12/90	Caines ask DES to involve Sir David Phillips. DES consults him.
	10/12/90	AFRC announces co-ordinated research programme of £9.0m over 4 years .
	18/12/90	Caines accepts Andrews' proposal, but emphasises need to consult AFRC/ MRC in due course, and requests changes to terms of reference to reflect nature of basic research.
	-/12/90	???International conference on BSE - ABRC involved???
ST 190/3	21/12/90	CSA's office (Nickless) advises CSA on maternal transmission of BSE in antelopes at London Zoo, and possible implications for the Government approach to BSE, including statements in its response to the House of Commons Agriculture Select Committee Report of 1989-90.
10001/84	4/1/91	DES (Vereker) raises with Andrews need for Tyrrell Committee to report to Research Councils if the research co-ordination proposal is implemented.
ST 190/3	23/1/91	CSA's office (Nickless) informs CSA that Prof Anderson, though

		promised data from MAFF, had not yet received it. (But Tyrrell had invited Prof Anderson to a meeting to assess progress of work to date.)
10001/84	5/2/91	Andrews consults Tyrrell on the research co-ordination proposal: a sub-group involving AFRC/ MRC?
	5/4/91	Andrews reports to Caines Tyrrell's proposals for involving AFRC/ MRC.
	24/4/91	Andrews agrees to consult AFRC/ MRC on the proposals, and to copy Tyrrell Committee papers to DES.
	2/5/91	DES receives Tyrrell Committee papers from now on.
	10/5/91	AFRC Secretary (Blundell) responds to Andrews that he wants AFRC/ MRC representation on Tyrrell Committee.
	10/5/91	MRC Secretary (Rees) tells DES of reservations about Tyrrell Committee - not equipped or resourced to co-ordinate research; no need for formal reporting lines.
	16/5/91	Caines asks Andrews for AFRC/ MRC representation on Tyrrell Committee.
	21/5/91	Andrews writes to Blundell/ Rees proposing AFRC/ MRC observers "as appropriate" on Tyrrell Committee; for Tyrrell to interpret.
ST 190/3	17/7/91	Bourne asks CSA to indicate to European Commission UK enthusiasm for EU programme on BSE which IAH would co-ordinate. CSA asks office to do so.
10001/84	2/8/91	Andrews agrees AFRC/ MRC should be present when Tyrrell Committee discusses research or research-related topics; Committee Secretariat to ensure Councils see agenda in advance.
	15/8/91	Caines welcomes and accepts Andrews proposal.
	3/9/91	ABRC Chairman (Sir David Phillips) suggests AFRC/ MRC/ MAFF/ DH meet to discuss research co-ordination.
	4/10/91	Meeting agrees Tyrrell Committee not competent to formulate direction of research or to direct research programmes; current Research Council involvement sub-optimal.
	7/10/91	Phillips writes to MAFF Chief Scientific Adviser (Bunyan) noting MAFF will undertake review of method of working and membership of Tyrrell Committee, and of fuller involvement of Research Council observers.
10001//84	7/9/93	OST (Gray) briefs CSA on state of knowledge on CJD and BSE after consulting IAH, MRC, DH and CJD Co-ordinating Centre Sheffield.
ST 190/3	17/9/93	EDS(O) Paper on CJD and BSE.
	30/11/93	CSA's office briefs CSA on MAFF progress report on BSE.
	16/6/94	Note of visit to NPU by OST official (Jennings). Potted history of

		NPU and current work.
	1/7/94	CSA writes to MAFF Permanent Secretary (Packer) expressing surprise that he was not consulted about an announcement extending the ban on SBO to certain calf offal, and requests scientific briefing.
	6/7/94	Packer tells CSA that MAFF was right to handle the announcement as it did.
10001/84	14/7/94	Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (Waldegrave?) proposes to Cabinet colleagues that CSA should play a part in explaining to the public the Government's position on the EU Veterinary Report on BSE. MAFF declined: the CVO would field any media bids.
	14/7/94	CSA sought to meet Tyrrell and CVO (Meldrum). [Not clear either meeting took place.]
	22/7/94	OST (Lynn) briefs CSA on MAFF/ BBSRC funding of BSE research.
	30/9/94	Packer sends CSA situation report on BSE, as requested.
	11/10/94	CSA thanks Packer and looks forward to being kept informed of future developments and announcements.
	11/12/95	DGRC (Sir John Cadogan) meets Dr David Gordon, Wellcome Trust, and Prof Collinge, Imperial College, to discuss the science and co-ordination of TSE research.
	31/1/96	President of Board of Trade (Lang) replies to letters from MAFF Minister (Hogg) dated 17/1/96 and Secretary of State for Scotland (Forsyth) dated 21/12/95 concerning job cuts and future funding arrangements at the NPU.
	11/3/96	DGRC alerts DTI Ministers and CSA to discovery of nv CJD on basis of letter from MRC Chief Executive dated 11/3/96.
	19/3/96	Minister of State for S&T (Taylor) replies to letters from Hogg dated 5/3/96 and Forsyth dated 28/2/96 regarding staff reductions and future funding arrangements at the NPU to say that the staffing position is now being reviewed. Advice to Taylor highlighted DGRC's advice of 11/3/96.

OST
26 February 1998