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CONFIDENTIAL

## CONFIRMED CASE OF CREUTZFELDT-JAKOB DISEASE (CJD) IN A DAIRY FARMER

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 Date: 14 July 1993  
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To: Mr D Barnes - PS/Minister

cc: Private Offices	Dr Matthews - AHWV
Dr Cottrell	Mr Bradley - CVL
Mr Leggett	Mr Wilesmith - CVL
Mr Capstick	Mr Howard AH(DC)'B'
Mr Meldrum	Mr Dixon - AH(DC) 'B'
Mr Haddon	Mr Lister - DH
Mr Eddy - AH(DC)	Dr Wight - DH
Mr Dugdale - INF	
Mr Harding - MMP	
Mr Robertson - AHWV	

1. Ministers will wish to be aware of a case of CJD in a 64 year old dairy farmer who is hospitalised near his home in the West Country. The case was confirmed by brain biopsy. Clinical symptoms were first seen in May 1993.
2. DH officials have put the attached submission to their Ministers and the CMO. We are in agreement with the line to take. It has been agreed that all enquiries relating to public health will be dealt with by DH Press Office and that no details of the case of the farmer or his farming business will be released at the present time. A meeting of the Tyrrell Committee is to be arranged as soon as possible to discuss the case.
3. Early reports indicated that the farmer had at least two cases of BSE in his herd which were diagnosed in 1992. In fact there are two separate dairy farms near Yeovil and one case of BSE has been confirmed on each farm, one first showing clinical symptoms in May 1992 and the other in February 1993. The ear numbers indicate that both animals were home bred and both were born in 1986. A third suspect case which occurred in March 1993 is awaiting confirmation. This animal was born in September 1988 after the feed ban was implemented, and preliminary laboratory results are positive.

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4. We remain of the view that there is no evidence of transmission of BSE to man. It is pertinent that the clinical symptoms of CJD in this farmer became evident in May this year and the first evidence of BSE was apparent only 12 months before. In view of the long incubation period of this group of diseases, there is no evidence to suggest transmission from his cattle.
5. We propose to take no further action on this case unless details of the CJD case, and the BSE situation on the farm, became public knowledge. If they did we would need to reconsider the situation.

*V.C. Taylor*

K C TAYLOR