

IN CONFIDENCE

BOV 296

BSE

1. I am writing to update my minute of 21 August which informed Ministers of a probable case of Creutzfeldt Jakob Disease (CJD) in a farmer who had a case of BSE on his farm.
2. The farmer has now died and CJD has been confirmed; the clinical presentation and pathology were typical CJD. The farmer had no medical history indicating exposure to CJD through surgical or other medical procedures eg human growth hormone. There was no evidence of familial CJD or any history of intimate exposure to cattle brains or other material likely to have the infectious agent.
3. The Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee (Tyrrell Committee) looked at the case at its meeting on 15 October. Their view was that all the evidence suggested that this was a typical sporadic case of CJD. It is hoped to carry out further laboratory studies to confirm this. The case will be written up by Dr Will of the CJD Surveillance Unit for publication in the normal manner in the medical press. This usually takes some time but Ministers will be advised further when a publication date is known.
4. Press enquiries should continue to be referred to the Department of Health whose line remains that there is no scientific evidence to link BSE with the human illness CJD and that the Tyrrell Committee have advised that the information available in this case does not change the situation.

John Maslin

J Maslin
AH(DC) B

5 November 1992

Mr S Tanner - PS/Mr Soames

cc: Private Offices /
 Mr C Capstick
 Mr K Meldrum
 Mr M Haddon
 Mr K C Taylor
 Mr R Lowson
 Mr S Dugdale
 Mr T Murray - DOH

The Minute has noted this.

Mr Maslin 2
cc as before

Phil Barnes
PS/Minute
10/11