Smales CMO with wish to know of the Tynell subcommuttees views. Partimberly X+Y below. JM

Ref! Pigs10i

11.9.90.

Dr Metters

From: Dr H Pickles

Med ISD/3

Date: 10 September 1990 and winned and

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There has been a preliminary meeting of the Tyrrell committee today to discuss the significance of the pig experiment in the light of other evidence, for example on feline spongiform encephalopathy.

- The preliminary conclusions were: 2.
 - we now know pigs are capable of expressing spongiform encephalopathy. Previously this had been doubted.
 - the clinical picture in pigs exposed to agent by these doses/routes is fairly distinctive and unlikely to have gone unrecognised.
 - even so improved monitoring/surveillance of neurological disease in older pigs should be considered.
 - feeding of the "specified offal" (ie nervous/lymphoid tissue from cattle) should no longer be permitted, to pigs or to any other species.
 - but feeding of other ruminant protein, including from scrapie-infected sheep, can continue to pigs.
 - / one natural field case of spongiform encephalopathy were described in a pig, we would need a ban on offal from pigs for human consumption.
- we cannot rule out the possibility that unrecognised subclinical spongiform encephalopathy could be present in British pigs though there is no evidence for this: only with parenteral/implantable pharmaceuticals/devices is the theoretical risk to humans of sufficient concern to consider any action.

- whilst any such action on pharmaceuticals/devices is for other to decide, this group (which includes 4 key members of the CSM group) suggests non-UK sources should now be used, at least for "high risk" pharmaceuticals and devices (ie for those from nervous or RE System)

- The full committee will meet on the 19th to confirm these conclusions, to review experimental protocols of transmission experiments, to reconsider the cat position in the light of additional cases and to consider scrapie in sheep and goats. In view of Mr Gummer's earlier commitments, we assume he will want to go public on the pig soon after, so the Tyrrell committee will also prepare a brief written statement.
- 4. You may want to consider with the MCA and the Medical Device Agency what preparatory action is appropriate in anticipation of the formal advice from the Tyrrell group. The CSM subgroup is not due to meet until the 31 October.

Hilary Pickles

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