

*Mrs Hepburn
Dr Nicholas
CC Mr Lave 2/3
Mrs Gentry*

CONFIDENTIAL



MCA

BUSINESS B

TO Dr J Metters IPCS

FROM D O Hagger MCA/B

DATE 21 September 1990

CC Dr Jones (OR)
Dr Jefferys (OR)
Dr Rotblat (OR)
Dr Raine
Dr Purves
Dr Pickles
Dr Richardson MDD

SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY IN PIGS

1. With reference to Dr Pickles' minute to Dr Richardson and me of 20 September, I formally acknowledge that attention has been drawn to paragraph 7 of the internal minutes of the Tyrrell committee following its meeting on 19 September. The MCA are preparing papers for the next meeting of the CSM's Working Group which is scheduled for 31 October.

2. The questionnaires issued in 1989 by the MCA following Southwood sought information from the manufacturers of medicinal products on the use of tissue from all animal species, not just bovine. Our records show that while some use is made of porcine materials in medicinal products, the only products which would appear to be in a hypothetically "higher risk" area are the adrenocorticotrophic hormone for which the source material comes from outside the United Kingdom, namely America China Sweden France and Germany. The products are manufactured by Ferring and Armour. A further product, "Zenoderm Corium implant" manufactured by Ethicon, makes use of porcine skin - which is not considered to be a "high risk" tissue - but one of its uses is described in the data sheet as "in dural replacement". This product is sourced from the United Kingdom. Papers on both these products are being prepared by the MCA for consideration by the CSM Working Party at its next meeting.

LINE TO TAKE

3. If questions on pharmaceuticals are raised at the press conference, the suggested line to take is as follows:-

"There are no medicinal products licensed for use on the UK market which make use of UK-derived porcine tissues with which any hypothetical "high risk" might be associated. The results of the recent experimental work at the CML will be carefully examined by the CSM's Working Group on spongiform encephalopathy at its next meeting [in October]."

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