

JJ8822p/3

CONFIDENTIAL

BSE

PS(H)

From: CMO

Date: 23 August 1990

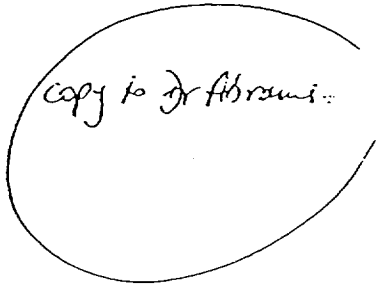
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3-9-90

EXPERIMENTAL PORCINE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALITIS

PS(H) will note that a pig inoculated intracerebrally (1 out of 8) with large doses of infected bovine brain has succumbed to spongiform encephalopathy. While this clearly is a cause for concern we should not jump to the conclusion that this means that pigs will necessarily be infected by bone and meat meal fed by the oral route as is the case with cattle. An important point to take into account is that it appears that brain material from sheep infected with scrapie has never been experimentally injected into pigs and it may well be that pigs would also be infected by this route.

At the moment there is insufficient information on which to base any further action. In particular I do not think that it is necessary for the Medicines Control Agency or the Procurement Directorate to take any action about porcine materials. The next step should be to await the result of discussions at the next meeting of the Tyrrell Committee which will be held early in September. I have discussed the matter with Professor David Tyrrell and he agrees. Mr Maclean has been advised of the situation.

copy to Dr Abrams

90/8.23/4.1