

POLICY IN CONFIDENCE

CJD1/1
See BSE/13

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Mr Creighton, PS/SoS

From: T W S Murray
Date: 22 October 1992Copies: File
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Ms Wright
Dr Metters
Mr Heppell
Dr Steadman
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Ms Lockyer
Mr Cunningham
Dr Wight
Mr Wilson, ID
Mr Lawson, MAFF

CREUTZFELDT JAKOB DISEASE (CJD)

1. My minute of 21 August gave details of "probable" case of CJD in a farmer. The case has now been confirmed through pathology. Further information and a revised line to take are set out below, and have been agreed with HEF(M)1.

2. At its meeting on 15 October the Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee (Tyrrell Committee) reviewed this case in more depth. Additional information is as follows:

- the farmer has now died
- CJD diagnosis has been confirmed by pathology
- 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, and no evidence of familial Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease.
- neither had he a history of intimate exposure to cattle brain or other material likely to have the infectious agent.

The Tyrrell Committee came to the view that all the indications suggested it was a typical sporadic case of CJD. However in view of the history, it is hoped to carry out further laboratory studies to try to confirm this.

3. Dr Will (CJD Surveillance Unit) will be writing up the case for publication in the medical press in line with normal practice. I will be liaising with Dr Wight (HEF(M) and MAFF colleagues to ensure Ministers and Press Office are forewarned when a publication date is known.


4. In the light of the above, the line to take set out in my minute of 21 August to Ministers can be revised to:

92/10.22/4.1

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"We are aware of a confirmed case of CJD in a farmer, who has had a cow with BSE. To date, there is no scientific evidence to link BSE with the human illness CJD and the Tyrrell Committee have advised that the information available in this case does not change this situation".

T.W.S. Murray

T.W.S. MURRAY