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TYRRELL COMMITTEE

1. I took a call from Dr Tyrrell about various matters on 27 October.

2. The Collinge/Will dispute appears to rumble on. Dr Collinge had told Dr Tyrrell that Dr Will's response to his criticism about sharing material had been "quite unacceptable" (in spite of its apparently conciliatory tone). Apparently Professor Allen was now going to try and arrange a meeting to resolve the dispute. No action here for MAFF, although Mr Murray may be interested.

3. Dr Tyrrell regretted that the Committee had not seen the article on BBD. However he felt that for the time being no specific action was called for. The most important need was to consider the possibility that the condition might be transmissible. As we have discussed, I suggested that we might circulate a paper to the members of the Committee giving our appreciation of this condition (and perhaps of other non-BSE neurological conditions that had been identified in negative cases) and of any necessary follow up action. If any Committee member felt strongly about this, or if the issue came to a head, we would call an interim meeting. He was happy with this approach. I would be grateful if Mr Maslin could, in discussion with CVL and veterinary colleagues draft such a note, which will presumably very largely follow what Mr Bradley's briefing paper has already said, taking account of DOH comments. We can then clear a final version with DOH before circulating it to Committee members.

4. He had seen and not been much impressed by the "Public Eye" programme. Although there were points which emerged from it which could be criticised, he did not feel that there was any need for his Committee to take a view on what had been said. I agreed, in view of the limited impact which the programme had had.

5. I took the opportunity to mention your concerns about the Committee's advice on tallow. He confirmed that the Committee had agreed that in general there was no problem about tallow. Their concerns related only to tallow derived from specified offals, and that concern furthermore only needed to be treated in a very low key way. He saw no need for haste in dealing with this issue and believed that the Committee's concern would be met so long as, one way or another, it could be shown that in practice tallow derived from specified offals did not find its way into animal feed.

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