BSE IN PETFOOD

The Secretary's minute of 19 April to Mr Meldrum caused me to look again at Mr Gleave's record of my meeting with the Parliamentary Secretary (Mr Thompson) on the topic of BSE in Petfood.

I should clarify that in suggesting that "infective levels of the scrapie agent in petfood were so low that, even if domestic animals were susceptible to BSE (and there was no evidence that there were), there was unlikely to be any risk of the disease developing", I was reporting the conclusions drawn from the which they were offering research carried out by to share with MAFF. In fact this was the entire context of the discussion and it seems unlikely to me that the Parliamentary Secretary misunderstood this.

Action has now been taken to discuss their research work with and we are presently settling on a date when all interested parties in the Department can attend, together with the

> J D Gaine 25 April 1989

Mr Meldrum (+1)

Mr Gleave (APS/Mr Thompson) CC Miss Phillips (PS/Perm Sec)

Mr Capstick

Mrs Attridge

Mr Cruickshank

Mr Griffiths

Mr Suich

Mr McKinley

Mr Woolfe

Mr M Griffiths

Mr Lowson

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