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Dr McInnes

from: Dr H Pickles SEB/B  
date: 20 February '89  
copy: Mr Cunningham ✓  
Mr Weir  
Dr Dawson

**BSE AND BABY FOOD**

1. We spoke about MacGregor's concern about baby food and how, if asked about beef liver and kidney, he was proposing replying:

"I understand that the committee [Southwood's] did not have the opportunity to examine thoroughly all the scientific evidence relating to offal particularly liver and kidney in human and baby food. I therefore propose to refer the matter to the CMO to seek his advice before taking any further action."

2. Whilst we agreed this clearly was passing the buck, I guess it's the best MacGregor can do. If CMO were content with this line, I could seek the appropriate information and advice - including from Sir Richard although I don't think it would be necessary to recall his group - and put together a paper on what information and opinions are available. Inevitably, it would mostly be based on what is known about the distribution and oral transmissibility of scrapie. It may be that little could be said without further research.



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