

PLEASE COULD YOU SEND YOUR COMMENTS TO MISS REEVES (ROOM 306C, EXTENSION 6277) AT THIS ADDRESS BY [3 WEEKS]

TO INTERESTED PARTIES

May 1989

Dear Sir/Mad^{am}~~am~~

PROPOSALS FOR BABY FOOD (PROHIBITED OFFAL) REGULATIONS

I enclose proposals for Baby Food (Prohibited Offal) Regulations to be made under the Food Act 1984.

The proposed regulations restrict the type of offal to be used in the manufacture of baby foods. As announced by my Minister and the Secretary of State for Health on 27 February these regulations are being introduced as a precautionary measure following the publication of the Southwood Report on Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy.

Regulation 1 : Title and Commencement

The Regulations would come into force without any transitional period.

Regulation 2 : Definitions

This sets out the scope of the regulations.

Regulation 4

This would attach offences and penalties in England and Wales.

As with all future consultation exercises on food law matters we will be making available a list of those who respond to this letter.

Yours faithfully

C A Cockbill

Head of Food Standards Division

DRAFT PRESS RELEASE

PROPOSALS FOR BABY FOOD (PROHIBITED OFFAL) REGULATIONS

1. Proposals for new regulations prohibiting the use of specified offals in the manufacture of baby foods have been issued today by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. The Ministry has invited comments on the proposals from interested parties.
2. This action is being taken as a precautionary measure following the suggestion in the Southwood Report on Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) that manufacturers of baby foods should avoid the use of ruminant thymus and offal.

NOTES FOR EDITORS

1. The proposed regulations will be made under the Food Act 1984. Comments on the proposals should be sent to Food Standards Division, Room 306B, MAFF Ergon House, c/o Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London SW1P 3JR to arrive not later than [].
2. In April 1988 the Minister and the Secretary of State for Health appointed Sir Richard Southwood to chair the Working Party on Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) to examine and advise on the implications of BSE in relation to both animal health and any possible human health risks. The Working Party's Report was published on 27 February (MAFF News Release 84/89 of 27 February 1989).
3. Copies of the Report of the Working Party (ISBN 185197 405 9) are available price £2.00 from PO Box 21, Stanmore, Middlesex HA7 1AY.

4. The Southwood Working Party identified thymus, brains, spinal cord, spleen and intestines as the particular offals which should be avoided. It is understood that ^{none} ~~more~~ of these are currently used in the manufacture of baby foods. The definition of prohibited offals in the proposed regulations goes wider than those identified by the Southwood Report for the sake of consistency with existing regulations which specify offals.