

BABY FOOD WARNING

By IAN HERNON

MPs today demanded tougher Government moves to protect the public from infected beef. The calls came after baby food manufacturers were told to avoid using cattle offal or tripe in their products after a report found that a cattle brain disease had infected some beef.

The Government plans to bring in legislation to enforce the ban, but opposition MPs said that was not good enough. Health Secretary Kenneth Clarke admitted that the disease, which is normally found in sheep, had been found

in cattle between 1985 and July last year.

UNKNOWN

It appears the disease - Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy - was passed on from ground-up carcasses used for cattle foodstuff.

Shadow Agriculture Minister David Clarke today said: "This is an unknown world. We simply do not know what effects this can have if passed on to humans."

He said that ministers should immediately ban the sale of brains and other such products including offal and tripe until cattle were pronounced completely clear of the disease.

But Agriculture Secretary John MacGregor said that there was no cause for alarm.

And Chief Medical Officer Sir Donald Aitchison said that there was no evidence that cattle offal or tripe were used in baby food and the latest moves are simply a precaution.



KENNETH CLARKE

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