

Keith Jones CE MCA

From: Mike McGovern

Date: 15 September 2000

Copies:

Liam Donaldson

Sheila Adam

David Hewlett

Ailsa Wight

Julia Dunne

Maggie Jackman

Alan Harvey

Charles Lister

Jill Taylor

The Lancet Article on BSE and Blood Transfusion

On behalf of Health Services Directorate and Public Health I apologise for the break down in communications between us and the MCA in the handling of this high profile paper reporting BSE transmission by blood transfusion in sheep. I am conscious of the intense embarrassment not knowing about this work must have caused you this morning, as chair of the EC Scientific Committee. This underlines the importance of our keeping the you and MCA colleagues informed at all times about CJD issues.

I have discussed the issue with MCA staff as well as with colleagues here and ways to ensure it does not happen again. In particular we will create a standard list for all future CJD briefing, which will prompt us to include MCA in our mailing.

In addition it would be very useful for us to be aware of when you are attending the EC Scientific Committee meetings so that we can brief you on any 'home' developments that might arise.

I hope this will help prevent any recurrence and apologise again for this unfortunate lapse.

Dr Mike McGovern

Health Services Directorate

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ON BLOOD
PRODUCTS

file BSE
Communications
B/f disease to Pen Sec.

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Dr Mike McGovern

Health Services Directorate

Unfortunately the briefing to Ministers which was not copied to MCA contained a misleading statement about licensed blood products which will need to be corrected. — see Submission.

Especially disappointing in view of MCA's Chairmanship of Scientific Committee in Brussels which has been asked to evaluate this evidence and produce a scientific opinion suitable for adoption by the Commission.