

## **Restricted - Policy**

### **NOTE OF THE BSE MEETING - 11 JUNE 1996**

#### Report from Cabinet meeting (11 June am)

##### Ministers' meeting:

There is to be a weekly newsletter published at noon each Thursday comprising an update and digest of events, probably including news on CJD. Dr Metters made the point that publication at this time on Thursday was ideal for use by the Sunday newspapers. Thought would be given to a more appropriate publication time. Mr Freeman is to meet the Meat and Livestock Commission to discuss minced meat. There remain concerns about availability of adequate cold storage for carcasses. The power generators are considering using MBM (?) and tallow as a source of fuel. Next meeting on Friday 14 June.

##### Officials' meeting:

Discussed interpretation of the Commission's decision that semen, gelatin and tallow material in store may not be up to scratch.

#### Publication of CJD statistics

CDR are to publish the statistics, publication postponed from 24 June as an Agricultural Ministers meeting is arranged for that date - publication now planned for 26 June. Number 10 is adamant that there should be no bad news before the Florence meeting. CMO is anxious to get the statistics into the public domain before the recess, which is likely to be around mid-July. A letter will be sent by SofS to the Prime Minister proposing to make CJD statistics available through a press briefing on 26 June, and in CDR in the months following, accompanied with a statement that there are no new cases to report for May.

#### Report back on House of Commons meeting about the rendering plant

It is thought very unlikely that the rendering plant is implicated, but a small study is being commissioned to explore further.

#### Meeting with CJD support network

There was a discussion about who should attend the forthcoming Alzheimer's Disease Society meeting on 17 June at which the parents (Churchill) of a CJD victim would be present. The question of infection via blood transfusion will be raised.

#### AOB

There is to be a European Parliament Joint Public Hearing on 24/25 June. Details are attached. FCO wants UK representation, but before nominees are identified it was agreed that we would clarify the role of representatives - it was thought that contributions could

only be made by invitation. The Director of EFPIA is scheduled to speak - but as one of 5 speakers in a session lasting only 2 hours, there is likely to be only limited scope for additional input from any representative.

Next stocktake meeting will be held on 13 June.