



Your reference

Our reference Will113j

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IN CONFIDENCE

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13 October 1989

Dear *Bob*

An otherwise enjoyable dinner last night as guest of the Association of Clinical Pathology was marred by a conversation with a neuropathologist who was just about to write to CMO with details of a case of CJD he had just seen. When first mentioning the case, he claimed she was only 36, but after a few more glasses of wine he became less certain of that and thought she could have been older. Locally, they made quite an association with BSE, since she was a farmers wife on a farm that, atypically for that area of S Yorkshire, had several BSE cases. I was told the clinical and pathological pictures were typical of CJD. The brain is now preserved in Sheffield, but fresh material was sent to Newcastle for animal inoculation. I suggested the NPU might be interested in molecular biology studies at some time so asked them to retain any other material they may still have in the freezer.

When I hear more, I will pass on the details to you, but you may hear from your own grapevine contacts in any case. Lets hope Dr Timperley got the age wrong by several decades. And lets also hope the media do not hype it up before we have a chance to investigate in adequate detail.

I presume all is going well with your plans for the monitoring study and that my lack of news on that at this end only means that you and Dr Dastgir are still sorting it out between you. Still no news of when the "Tyrrell" report will be published.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely

Dr Hilary Pickles
Principal Medical Officer

nd: letter to Dr Timperley