

CJD) 194

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Press Office

From: Dr A Wight

Date: 3 November 1995

Copies: Ms Woodeson
Dr Harvey
Dr Metters
Dr Rubery
Dr Skimmer
Mr Lister
Mr Robb
Mr Jobson
Mr Eddy (MAFF)
Dr Skimmer (SHHD)
Ms E Jones (WO)

FOURTH CASE OF CJD IN FARMER

1. Mr Lister's minute of 23 October refers.
2. This suspected case of CJD in a farmer has now been confirmed by the CJD Surveillance Unit.
3. This is not unexpected and does not alter the advice already given by SEAC in their statement.
4. I understand from the Surveillance Unit that the farmer's family have been informed of the diagnosis. It is likely the clinicians involved will be reporting the case in the medical literature and I see no merit in DH withholding information on the diagnosis until then if the Press appear to know anyway.
5. Should there be any further Press enquiries specifically about the diagnosis in this case, I therefore suggest that we say that the diagnosis has been confirmed but that there is nothing to add to SEAC's earlier advice.

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