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Dr R G Will
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1/3/96
Spoke to Dr Skinner
following his visit to
the unit on 29/2/96.
A will is sent
panded report covers
up to 31/12/95 only
GR

27 February 1996

Dear Dr Will,

NATIONAL CJD SURVEILLANCE UNIT: CONTRIBUTION TO CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER'S (CMO) REPORT FOR 1995

You may recall that you commented several weeks ago on our draft contribution to the CMO's Report for 1995. I attach the latest version of the draft and the accompanying table.

We should be very grateful for any further comments faxed to the above number by 2 pm on Thursday 29 February, if possible. I apologise for the short deadline and hope that it does not cause you any inconvenience.

Yours sincerely

GERRY ROBB
Health Aspects of the Environment and Food Division

encs.

Copies: Mr Skinner DH

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(i) **National Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease Surveillance Unit**

The National CJD Surveillance Unit has continued to monitor the pattern of CJD in the UK in 1995, but continued to find no conclusive evidence of any change in CJD that could be attributed to Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE).

The Unit was set up in 1990 to monitor changes in the pattern of CJD in the UK. The Unit investigates the incidence and epidemiology of CJD in the UK, paying particular attention to occupation and eating habits.

In 1995, there were 34 deaths from CJD (29 sporadic cases and 4 iatrogenic cases - see Table[]). The number of sporadic cases represents a significant decrease on the 1994 figure of 59 cases although this remains provisional until the 1995 data is finalised. The make up of cases recorded included the fourth farmer and the first teenager to have died from CJD in the UK. A second case of CJD in a teenager was confirmed in 1995, but the patient remains alive. These cases are unusual but not outside the bounds of probability.

It is clear that surveillance will need to continue for some years to come in view of the potentially prolonged incubation period of CJD.