

Mrs B Shersby

From: Dr Jefferys
Dr Adams
Dr Raine
Dr Winship

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USE OF BOVINE OFFAL IN COSMETICS -BSE

We are somewhat concerned with the draft letter from MED TEH to the DTI, following their request for advice on the safety of cosmetics containing bovine offal, with respect to BSE.

We would wish to make the following points in relation to the draft letter:

First paragraph: No detailed information has been provided on the cosmetic products mentioned containing extracts of bovine offal, primarily spleen and thymus, therefore informed comment is not possible.

The CSM/VPC guidelines were framed in relation to licensed medicinal products where the risk/benefit analysis has been established.

Second paragraph: This is in line with the current MCA position, which has been arrived at following the Southwood report, and the advice of the standing BSE Working Party, after reviewing the information provided by all Companies on their source materials and manufacturing processes.

Third paragraph: The wording of this paragraph will raise new concerns which cannot be scientifically answered. We would ask that the third paragraph be omitted.

We feel there is an urgent need to clarify this issue and its implications for both MCA and MED TEH. We therefore strongly advise that a meeting be held between MED TEH and MCA representatives to discuss overlapping areas of responsibility, before the reply to DTI is finalised.

We can offer Friday, 2 February at 12.00 to 1.00pm in Room 1524 Market Towers, but would be pleased to consider alternative dates.