A BSE case born in November 1998

BSE has been diagnosed in a Friesian cow, born on 4 November 1998, sixteen months after 1 August 1996, when extra control measures on animal feed containing mammalian meat and bone meal (MMBM) were considered to have been fully implemented. The animal was taken under passive surveillance as a clinical suspect. Its farm of origin was in Cornwall, where it remained until it was slaughtered as a BSE suspect on 11 September 2003. Disease was officially confirmed on 2 October 2003.

A previous case from this farm born on 6 November 1998, was confirmed on 9 January 2003. This is the first time that more than one case born after 1 August 1996 has been confirmed on the same holding. Although they had different mothers, the animals were, in fact, born within two days of each other in November 1998. Both animals were aged well over 30 months at slaughter, so neither was destined for the food chain.

Further veterinary enquiries will be carried out as a priority, including a careful comparison with findings from the earlier case. These enquiries will focus on closely examining the type of feed consumed on the farm and looking at the feed mills which supplied it. They will also cover a range of other issues including the specific feeding and handling systems used on the farm. Other animals from the farm which might have shared the same feed will be monitored and will also be excluded from the food chain.