Volume 11
Scientists after Southwood
Terms of Reference, Committee Members and Report Volumes xi
A note on the footnotes xii

1 Introduction 1

2 The Tyrrell Consultative Committee 3
The establishment of the Tyrrell Consultative Committee 3
Appointment of the chairman 4
Appointment of the other Committee members 5
Terms of reference 6
Interpretation of the remit by the Tyrrell Committee 7
The secretariat 8
The first meeting 8
Consideration of research identified in the *Southwood Report* 9
Views on the *Southwood Report* 10
Human health concerns 10
Scrapie as the origin of BSE 11
The maternal transmission study 12
Origin of the study 12
The Committee’s consideration of the proposed study 13
Discussion 14
The second meeting 15
Epidemiology 15
Mr Wilesmith’s epidemiology paper 16
The Committee’s reaction 16
Provision of further data 16
Monitoring of CJD 16
The Committee’s views on the proposals 17
BSE and medicinal products 17
The Committee’s response 18
The third meeting 19

3 The Tyrrell Report 20
Rationale for an Interim Report 20
Development of the Report 20
Preparation for the second meeting 20
Consideration during the second meeting 21
Further development of the Report following the second meeting
  – discussion of priorities 21
Allocation of priorities 22
  The star ratings 22
The research projects 23
Discussion 26
Publication of the Report 31
  Submission of the Interim Report 31
  Subsequent handling of the Interim Report 31
Government handling of the recommendations 32
  Attempts to gain extra funding 34
Final publication 36
Discussion 37

4 The Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee (SEAC) 38

Establishment of SEAC 38
Terms of reference 40
  Membership 40
  Chairman 40
  Members 41
  Observers 42
  Secretariat 44
    DH representatives 44
    MAFF representatives 45
Resources and processes 46
  Payment of fees 46
Research information 46
  Communication of SEAC’s deliberations 47
    Communication within the Departments 47
    Communication with the territories 48
    Communication with the public 51
Role of SEAC 51
  Initial expectations as to SEAC’s role 51
  SEAC’s role in practice 55
Deliberations and advice 57
  1. Advice on the safety of beef 58
    SEAC’s advice 58
      The genesis of the advice 62
      Communication of SEAC’s advice 68
      Discussion of SEAC’s paper on the safety of beef 70
      Discussion of the treatment of ‘dose’ 72
  2. Advice on breeding from the offspring of BSE-affected cattle 75
MAFF’s early advice to veterinary surgeons | 75
The Southwood Working Party considers maternal transmission | 75
The BVA offers advice | 76
Preparation of advice for Ministers | 77
Mr Lowson’s final submission to Mr Gummer | 79
MAFF Ministers consider the advice | 79
DH’s consideration of the advice | 81
SEAC consideration | 85
SEAC members provide evidence to the Select Committee | 90
SEAC’s fourth meeting and finalisation of the paper on maternal transmission | 92
MAFF issues the *Advisory Note to Farmers*, June 1990 | 93
The Agriculture Select Committee’s report on BSE | 94
The Government’s response | 95
Subsequent advice on breeding, 1995–96 | 95
Discussion | 96

3. Advice on slaughterhouse practices and MRM | 98
Head-splitting | 99
SEAC considers ‘head-splitting’ | 101
Evidence to the Agriculture Select Committee | 102
Bovine Offal (Prohibition) (Amendment) Regulations 1992 | 103
Slaughterhouse practices and MRM | 103
SEAC’s conclusions | 106
Discussion | 107

4. Advice on animal feed | 108
Agriculture Select Committee’s inquiry into BSE | 109
Experimental transmission of BSE to a pig: SEAC recommends an animal SBO ban | 110
Discussion | 116
Feeding porcine MBM to cattle | 117
Discussion | 117
Born-after-the-ban (BAB) cases | 117
The first BAB – maternal transmission is considered | 118
SEAC considers the first BAB | 118
SEAC’s further consideration of BABs | 119
Discussion | 125

5. Advice on the safety of bovine eyes | 125
The use of bovine eyeballs in schools | 126
Advice from SEAC | 126
The use of bovine eyeballs in human food | 128
Discussion | 132

6. Advice on the safety of tallow | 133
The process by which tallow is produced | 133
The decision to exclude tallow from the ruminant feed ban 134
The Southwood Working Party’s consideration of tallow 136
The introduction of the human SBO ban 137
SEAC advice on the use of bovine-derived tallow 138
Implementation of the Order banning the use of SBO-derived tallow in animal feed 146
Discussion 149

7. Advice on the use of gelatine 150
   The legislative position in respect of gelatine 150
   SEAC consideration of gelatine in the context of medicines and cosmetics 151
   Amendment of the position under EC legislation 154
   Concerns emerge over the inclusion of gelatine in animal feed 154
   Ministers are informed and relaxation of the rules recommended 155
   Public concerns 156
   Continuing concerns over gelatine 156
   SEAC again discusses gelatine 157
   Discussion 159

8. Consideration of the risks from milk 160
9. Risk from sheep 161
   The matter is first raised 161
   SEAC returns to the issue 167
   Discussion 172

10. Blood 172
    Spreading bovine blood on farm land 172
    Use of blood products in animal feed 173
    Consideration of risk associated with human blood transfusions 173
    Discussion 174

11. Disposal of carcasses and SBO material 174
12. Risk from zoo animals 176
13. Advice on thymus and intestine of calves 177
    Discussion 181
14. CJD in farmers and young people 182
    Discussion 192

Research 193
   Coordination 193
      Discussion on research coordination 205
Reports by SEAC published in 1992 and 1994 205
   The Interim Report on Research – April 1992 205
   Discussion 208
   ‘A Summary of Present Knowledge and Research’ – September 1994 209
   Discussion 210
Further input from Professor Lacey, Autumn 1993 261
Dr Dealler establishes the Spongiform Encephalopathy Research Council 261
Dr Dealler investigates the death of a suspect BSE case 262
Correspondence between Dr Dealler and Mr Soames, early 1994 265
Dr Dealler complains about SEAC’s comments on his paper 265
MAFF responds to Dr Dealler’s concerns 266
Dr Dealler’s consideration of exposure to BSE by various occupations and through blood products 267
Dr Dealler and Professor Lacey keep up the pressure, mid to late 1994 268
Professor Lacey’s presentation to the Society for Microbial Technology 269
Professor Lacey’s article in the British Food Journal, October/November 1994 270
Mr Wilesmith’s views on Dr Dealler’s estimates of the scale of the BSE epidemic 270
Professor Lacey’s book, Mad Cow Disease: The History of BSE in Britain 270
Dr Dealler prepares a paper on the epidemiology of BSE 271
SEAC’s 22nd and 23rd meetings 272
Professor Lacey’s article in the Journal of Nutritional and Environmental Medicine, December 1995 273
Professor Lacey’s letter to the British Medical Journal, January 1996 273

Discussion 273
Dr Harash Narang 276
Introduction 276
The touch test 277
First demonstration of the touch test by Dr Narang 277
Mr Bradley updates Dr Watson on the touch test 278
CVL decide to collaborate with Dr Narang 278
Dr Narang’s application for funding from MAFF is turned down 280
Dr Narang receives private funding: reaction from CVL 281
Progress with validation of the touch test 282
Dr Narang’s progress in late 1990/early 1991 283
Communications with Dr David Clark 284
Results of the touch test 285
Dr David Clark’s letter to the Independent 285
Dr Narang’s results are discussed at a joint CVL/NPU meeting 286
Dr Clark continues to press the case of Dr Narang 286
Dr Narang writes to Mr Gummer 287
Mr Dale Campbell-Savours takes up the case for Dr Narang 288
Dr Narang and MAFF discuss a new ante-mortem test 289
CONTENTS

Arrangements for a jointly funded AFRC/MAFF project to verify the basis of Dr Narang’s proposed test
Mr Campbell-Savours seeks an update from Mr Soames on Dr Narang’s applications to MAFF
First progress meeting of the joint AFRC/MAFF project with Professor Oxford
Mr Campbell-Savours writes again on behalf of Dr Narang
Dr Narang writes to Mr Waldegrave about his research
Results of the jointly funded BBSRC/MAFF project to verify the basis of Dr Narang’s proposed test in the live animal

The urine test for CJD
Dr Narang continues to press his case with Mr Hogg and Mr Dorrell
Mr Hogg replies to Dr Narang’s letters of 27 December and 5 January
SEAC considers Dr Narang’s test
Discussion

Mr Mark Purdey

Introduction
Mr Purdy’s letter to Farmers Weekly proposing a link between OPs and BSE
Suspect BSE case on Mr Purdey’s farm
Treatment of a BSE suspect with compounds used as antidotes for nerve gas
Suggestions of maternal transmission
Tom King writes to MAFF Ministers about Mr Purdey’s views
Article in the Sunday Telegraph about OPs
Further correspondence with Mrs Shephard
Meeting between Mr Purdey and MAFF
Correspondence with Dr Stephen Whatley
MRC experiments into the link between OPs and BSE
Channel Four programme on BSE and Mr Purdey’s theories
Further correspondence with MAFF
Discussion

Glossary

Who’s who

Index