

Holding 75/333/0024

Auchencheyne Ltd, Auchencheyne, Moniaive Thornhill, Dumfriesshire DG3 4EW

BCMS HEAT reference 16902118

Call received at BCMS on 3rd April 2018 at approx. 16:00 pm from a gentleman identifying himself as Neil Harrison Gourlay

A couple of cattle following inspection have been found which he had reported off in error one of which was UK542626302270.

I advised that we have not received the inspectors report back so cannot confirm what action will happen with these until we see the inspectors comments.

Caller asked me about dates of birth and went on to explain that he and his stockman had given different dates of birth both of which were guesses because the calves were born on the hill and they could not read the dams tags from a distance and therefore couldn't say which dam had calved and when. He advised that they cannot get the animals in every day to check them and therefore they make a guess on when they actually gave birth. I advised that if they have provided 2 different dates of birth and have suggested to the inspector that the dates were guessed due to the issues he mentioned, then the inspector would have to report these as discrepant because we need accurate dates of birth and not approximates. Caller asked me what do we put first Health & Safety or correct details. I advised we are here to record cattle details and therefore we need exact dates of birth and the health and safety side is something that while it affects them would not have a bearing on our decision with regards to the supplying of incorrect details.

FAO [REDACTED TEXT] [Redacted text]
Rural Payments and Inspections Division
Dumfries Area Office,
161 Brooms Road,
Dumfries
DG1 3ES

Auchencheyne 333/0024

Dear [Redacted text]

I refer to your e mails of 3rd and 11th July in response to our request to return the passports for the bulls.

You refer us to BCMS. Apart from the fact that BCMS will not answer our e mails or respond to our telephone requests our understanding is that they would only act on instruction/confirmation from SGRPID.

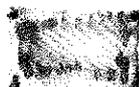
What we seek is the replacement of the NOR's for these animals by the return of their passports in order to be able to sell them. As we have previously stated there is no animal or human health reason why this should not take place .

For clarity can you confirm that BCMS, without reference to SGRPID, (who caused these passports to be taken in the first place) will return these to us a matter of urgency? Can you also advise precisely how we get them to do so?

Auchencheyne.

MTag	Eartag	DOB	Age (Months)	Breed	Status	Arrival Date	Departure Date	Herd	Genetic Dam	Location	Management Group	Sire
AA001	UK582307306823	02/05/2017	14	CHX	Steer	02/05/2017			UK160957102035	Auchencheyne Ltd	NOR 18	
AA008	UK582307306564	14/04/2017	14	CHX	Steer	14/04/2017			UK682087501093	Auchencheyne Ltd	NOR 18	
AA011	UK582307706554	12/04/2017	14	CHX	Steer	12/04/2017			UK582087401092	Auchencheyne Ltd	NOR 18	
AA012	UK582307106772	26/05/2017	13	CHX	Steer	26/05/2017			UK582579101345	Auchencheyne Ltd	NOR 18	
AA013	UK582307506825	04/05/2017	14	CHX	Steer	04/05/2017			UK582087601073	Auchencheyne Ltd	NOR 18	
AA016	UK582307706806	11/05/2017	13	LIMX	Steer	11/05/2017			UK122846601194	Auchencheyne Ltd	NOR 18	
AA019	UK582307706568	02/05/2017	14	CHX	Steer	02/05/2017			UK582087501079	Auchencheyne Ltd	NOR 18	
AA021	UK582307506552	12/04/2017	14	CHX	Steer	12/04/2017			UK583406502450	Auchencheyne Ltd	NOR 18	
AA026	UK582307506783	07/05/2017	14	LIMX	Steer	07/05/2017			UK122846201197	Auchencheyne Ltd	NOR 18	
AA031	UK582307706827	04/05/2017	14	CHX	Steer	04/05/2017			UK582663507677	Auchencheyne Ltd	NOR 18	
AA037	UK582307106800	04/05/2017	14	CHX	Steer	04/05/2017			UK540635401558	Auchencheyne Ltd	NOR 18	
AA038	UK582307106779	06/05/2017	14	LIMX	Steer	06/05/2017			UK102965300538	Auchencheyne Ltd	NOR 18	
AA040	UK582307506797	11/05/2017	13	LIMX	Steer	11/05/2017			UK586182600282	Auchencheyne Ltd	NOR 18	
AA046	UK582307306557	12/04/2017	14	CHX	Steer	12/04/2017			UK324026501004	Auchencheyne Ltd	NOR 18	
AA052	UK582307706547	11/04/2017	14	CHX	Steer	11/04/2017			UK582307104014	Auchencheyne Ltd	NOR 18	
AA057	UK582307506818	02/05/2017	14	CHX	Steer	02/05/2017			UK582630400764	Auchencheyne Ltd	NOR 18	
AA061	UK582307206808	18/05/2017	13	CHX	Steer	18/05/2017			UK583406302623	Auchencheyne Ltd	NOR 18	
AA063	UK582307206822	02/05/2017	14	CHX	Steer	02/05/2017			UK103099301228	Auchencheyne Ltd	NOR 18	
AA065	UK582307606812	18/05/2017	13	CHX	Steer	18/05/2017			IE311347350263	Auchencheyne Ltd	NOR 18	
AA083	UK582307106569	02/05/2017	14	CHX	Steer	02/05/2017			UK582087101124	Auchencheyne Ltd	NOR 18	
AA084	UK582307306781	05/05/2017	14	LIMX	Steer	05/05/2017			UK582307505369	Auchencheyne Ltd	NOR 18	
AA092	UK582307606826	04/05/2017	14	CHX	Steer	04/05/2017			UK104014500447	Auchencheyne Ltd	NOR 18	
AA097	UK582307606560	13/04/2017	14	CHX	Steer	13/04/2017			UK585375200673	Auchencheyne Ltd	NOR 18	
AA098	UK582307106562	13/04/2017	14	CHX	Steer	13/04/2017			UK582087701123	Auchencheyne Ltd	NOR 18	
AA105	UK582307706581	14/04/2017	14	CHX	Steer	14/04/2017			UK582307704832	Auchencheyne Ltd	NOR 18	
AA108	UK582307306795	08/05/2017	14	CHX	Steer	08/05/2017			UK160957301337	Auchencheyne Ltd	NOR 18	
AA135	UK582307606567	02/05/2017	14	CHX	Steer	02/05/2017			UK167455600882	Auchencheyne Ltd	NOR 18	
CA007	UK582307406683	03/06/2017	13	CHX	Steer	03/06/2017			UK104014100429		NOR 18	
CA008	UK582307606581	31/03/2017	15	AA	Steer	31/03/2017			UK582307605510		NOR 18	
CA014	UK582307506972	01/06/2017	13	CHX	Steer	01/06/2017			UK160957502095		NOR 18	
CA032	UK582307706645	17/04/2017	14	CHX	Steer	17/04/2017			UK305903300505		NOR 18	
CA034	UK582307506629	16/04/2017	14	CHX	Steer	16/04/2017			UK582087101075		NOR 18	
CA042	UK582307106667	03/06/2017	13	LIMX	Steer	03/06/2017			UK582333401899		NOR 18	
CA046	UK582307706974	02/06/2017	13	CHX	Steer	02/06/2017			UK160957202120		NOR 18	
CA055	UK582307706638	15/04/2017	14	CHX	Steer	15/04/2017			UK582233202600		NOR 18	
CA061	UK582307206640	15/04/2017	14	LIMX	Steer	15/04/2017			UK582333401941		NOR 18	
CA068	UK582307506643	16/04/2017	14	CHX	Steer	16/04/2017			UK340790400329		NOR 18	
CA071	UK582307706652	21/04/2017	14	CHX	Steer	21/04/2017			UK104014300431		NOR 18	
CA075	UK582307206724	12/05/2017	13	SMX	Steer	12/05/2017	Back drive 18		UK581836101147		NOR 18	
CA081	UK582307406719	10/05/2017	13	SMX	Steer	10/05/2017	Back drive 18		UK581910701796		NOR 18	
CA083	UK582307406656	01/06/2017	13	CHX	Steer	01/06/2017			UK581138300628		NOR 18	
CA091	UK582307206633	14/04/2017	14	CHX	Steer	14/04/2017			UK582333601607		NOR 18	
CA125	UK582307206647	18/04/2017	14	CHX	Steer	18/04/2017			UK581704501132		NOR 18	
CA126	UK582307606623	15/04/2017	14	CHX	Steer	15/04/2017			UK581704101128		NOR 18	
CA142	UK582307106632	15/04/2017	14	CHX	Steer	15/04/2017			UK343716600030		NOR 18	
CA168	UK582307206626	15/04/2017	14	CHX	Steer	15/04/2017			UK167455100891		NOR 18	
LA ??	UK582307106681	18/05/2017	13	LU	Steer	18/05/2017	Back drive 18		UK543991700027	Auchencheyne Ltd	NOR 18	UK582602701159
LA??	UK582307206682	20/05/2017	13	LU	Steer	20/05/2017			UK581694501103	Auchencheyne Ltd	NOR 18	UK582602701159
LA??	UK582307406684	23/05/2017	13	LU	Steer	23/05/2017	Back drive 18		UK582203400435	Auchencheyne Ltd	NOR 18	UK582602501332
LA133	UK582307506692	02/04/2017	15	LU	Steer	02/04/2017			UK582203700368		NOR 18	UK563685400170
LA134	UK582307406691	02/04/2017	15	LU	Steer	02/04/2017			UK582207203843		NOR 18	UK563685400170
LA136	UK582307706673	18/05/2017	13	LU	Steer	18/05/2017	Back drive 18		UK582307705770		NOR 18	UK582602701159
LA148	UK582307206675	18/05/2017	13	LU	Steer	18/05/2017			UK582207503874	Auchencheyne Ltd	NOR 18	UK582602701159
LA160	UK582307706680	18/05/2017	13	LU	Steer	18/05/2017			UK582207603980	Auchencheyne Ltd	NOR 18	UK582602701159
MA001	UK582307306011	02/04/2017	15	CHX	Steer	02/04/2017			UK104014100408		NOR 18	
MA006	UK582307206024	07/04/2017	15	LIMX	Steer	07/04/2017			UK542022201516		NOR 18	
MA007	UK582307206010	02/04/2017	15	CHX	Steer	02/04/2017			UK104014500391		NOR 18	
MA021	UK582307506013	02/04/2017	15	CHX	Steer	02/04/2017			UK160957501906		NOR 18	
MA024	UK582307106016	03/04/2017	15	CHX	Steer	03/04/2017			UK160957401982		NOR 18	
MA032	UK582307706008	02/04/2017	15	CHX	Steer	02/04/2017			UK160957602068		NOR 18	
MA042	UK582307706001	01/04/2017	15	CHX	Steer	01/04/2017			UK582569601524		NOR 18	
MA045	UK582307706015	02/04/2017	15	CHX	Steer	02/04/2017			UK160957101510		NOR 18	
MA046	UK582307106009	02/04/2017	15	CHX	Steer	02/04/2017			UK202580201219		NOR 18	
MA053	UK582307206003	09/05/2017	14	CHX	Steer	09/05/2017			UK581910601879		NOR 18	
MA058	UK582307306004	01/04/2017	15	CHX	Steer	01/04/2017			UK582120200393		NOR 18	
MA060	UK582307606014	02/04/2017	15	CHX	Steer	02/04/2017			UK102652702100		NOR 18	

MTag	Eartag	DOB	Age (Months)	Breed	Status	ArrivalDate	DepartureDate	Herd	Genetic Dam	Location	ManagementGroup	Sire
MA065	UK582307305879	30/04/2017	14	CHX	Steer	30/04/2017			UK561910101797		NOR 18	
MA078	UK582307708918	08/06/2017	13	CHX	Steer	08/06/2017			UK160957202106		NOR 18	
MA085	UK582307606028	08/04/2017	15	LIMX	Steer	08/04/2017			UK542022401511		NOR 18	
MA098	UK582307708911	01/06/2017	13	LIMX	Steer	01/06/2017		Back drive 18	UK542022101522		NOR 18	
MA108	UK582307708904	29/05/2017	13	CHX	Steer	29/05/2017			UK104014600462		NOR 18	
MA117	UK582307606035	11/04/2017	14	CHX	Steer	11/04/2017			UK582747701799		NOR 18	
MA143	UK582307206017	02/04/2017	15	CHX	Steer	02/04/2017			UK104014100457		NOR 18	
MA170	UK582307506909	01/06/2017	13	CHX	Steer	01/06/2017			UK583406402575		NOR 18	



Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate
Rural Payments and Inspections Division
Dumfries Area Office



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

T: 0300 244 5888 F: 0300 244 8844
E: sgrpid.dumfries@gov.scot

[REDACTED]
Auchencheyne Ltd
Auchencheyne
Moniaive
THORNHILL
Dumfriesshire
DG3 4EW

Your ref: 333/0024
Our ref: 120201
25 July 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your letter received via email on the 13th July in which you make reference to email correspondence on the 3rd and 11th July. You have requested that the cattle listed in the attachment are provided with passports.

I am unable to agree to your request for the following reasons –

We carried out a cattle identification inspection on the animals and records under your keepership to assess compliance with the Cattle Identification (Scotland) Regulations (as amended).

As a result of this inspection you were served with a notice requiring the surrender of cattle passports, including the cattle listed because the inspectors had a reasonable belief that you had not complied with the European and domestic cattle identification and registration regulations.

Having returned the passports to BCMS, Notice of Registration (NOR) documents were issued in place of the passports. Animals with a NOR document are restricted to the holding they are currently on.

BCMS are responsible for the creation, issuing and maintenance of passport and NOR documentation. Your request for the return of passports should therefore be directed to BCMS either by e mail or by post. The contact details are –

BCMS-enquiries@bcms.rpa.gsi.gov.uk

BCMS Enquiries, British Cattle Movement Service, Rural Payments Agency, Workington,
CA14 2DD

161 Brooms Road, Dumfries DG1 3ES
www.gov.scot



However, I would be happy to forward this letter and your email and attachments onto BCMS thus ensuring that your request for the return of passports is lodged with them. Please confirm if you want me to do so. BCMS act on behalf of the Scottish Ministers so they will consult with the appropriate HQ staff in Edinburgh to decide if passports can be returned.

The inspection findings work is progressing, however due to the large number of cattle involved, I envisage that the compilation of the findings will conclude within the next few weeks.

I would propose that as soon as the inspection findings are concluded I contact you again to arrange a meeting to discuss the findings. I hope this is agreeable to you.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted signature]

Principal Agricultural Officer

UK582307106772		Discrepancy:	None		
Calving Book DOB:	ok	Line Number:	378	Passport Seen	✓
Farm Matters DOB	26/05/17	Page / Line:	18 / 26	Record Seen	✓
BCMS DOB	26/05/17	IBI Page:	65	Animal Seen	✓
Date of Registration:	29/05/17	Days old at Registration:	3	Passport Surrendered	29/03/18

Date of Birth initially read as 06/05/2017 rather than 26/05/2017. No Date of Birth Issue with this animal and the passport should be returned.

BCMS to be informed.

Calving Book DOB	Line 378				
26/05/17	117	CH	H	70 67 71	511
26/05/17	12	CH	B	10 67 72	378 ✓
27/05/17	93	CH	H	20 67 73	379

Farm Matters Computer Record page 18 Line 26;

MTag	Eartag	DOB	Age (Mon ths)	Breed	Status	ArrivalDate	DepartureDate	Genetic Dam	Location	ManagementG
26 AA012	UK582307106772	26/05/2017	B CHX	Bull Calf		26/05/2017	-	UK582579101345	Auchencheyne Ltc (none)	

BCMS IBI Pack Page 65;

Jumbo Tag No.	Ear Tag No.	CTS	Pass	COR	CCD	NOR	REN	Birth Date / On Date	Off Date / Death Date	Latest Calving	Sex	Breed	Ve r	Genetic Dam Surrogate Dam	Location CPH	Comments
UK582307106772								26/05/17			M	CHX	01	UK582579101345		DOB 06/05/17 IN CALVING BOOK - 2

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 06 June 2018 10:12:11
To: Public Engagement Unit
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and Connectivity, Paterson
AC (Andy)
Subject: FW: Auchenchyne Farm Inspection.

Attachments: scan0128.pdf

For MACCS and a prompt response.

AO - [REDACTED]

Private Secretary
Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and Connectivity
2N.11
St Andrews House
[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]@parliament.scot] On
Behalf Of Ewing F (Fergus), MSP
Sent: 06 June 2018 09:55
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Auchenchyne Farm Inspection.
Importance: High

From: Carson F (Finlay), MSP
Sent: 05 June 2018 17:10
To: Ewing F (Fergus), MSP
<Fergus.Ewing.msp@parliament.scot<mailto:Fergus.Ewing.msp@parliament.scot>>
Cc: cabsececclr@gov.scot<mailto:cabsececclr@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@parliament.scot<mailto:[REDACTED]@parliament.scot>>
Subject: Auchenchyne Farm Inspection.
Importance: High

Dear Cabinet Secretary,

I very much appreciated the timely meeting with you officials last week however I am dismayed at receiving a scan of an error ridden document which RPID have sent [REDACTED]

Given the extreme stress [REDACTED] is under and the unacceptable delays in dealing with animal passport discrepancies, I would have thought that extra care would have been taken to ensure that all information was accurate and would be subject to

additional checks.

I have attached a page of the Official CCCP27 notice of restriction. All the dates of birth on this page are incorrect according to [REDACTED]

One clear example, which anyone even without animal husbandry knowledge would pick up, is cow number UK582685400398..... Showing as 118 yr and 4 months old!

Additionally UK160957301183 is recorded as a Cow at 1 year 1 month old. This animal is not home bred and not registered by Auchenchyne!

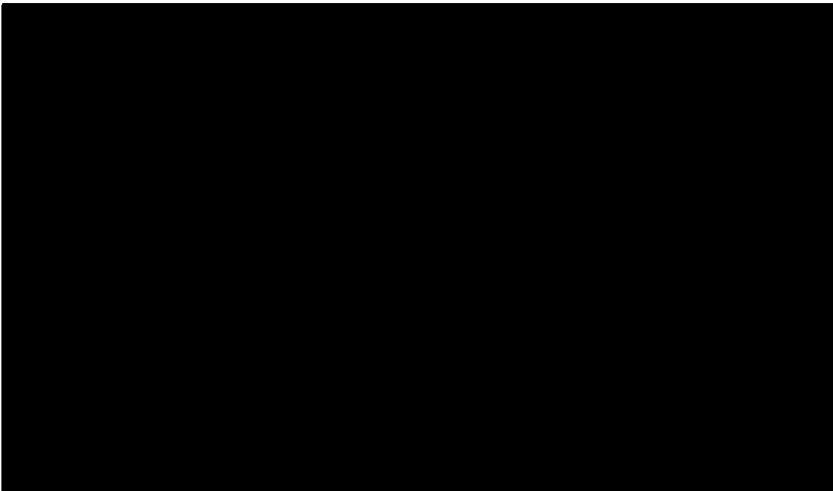
There are many more anomalies.

It is also unacceptable to give less than a weeks' notice to bring cattle in from grazing to be checked again at this time of year.

Can I ask you to once again intervene and ensure the highest of duty of care in this case, and provide some answers on what appears to have gone badly wrong with the departments data collection.

Kind regards

[sig]



*

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22 RECORD

22 IN COMPLIANCE DATE OF 2018



British Cattle
COUNCIL OF GREAT BRITAIN



The Scottish
Government

Rural Payments and
Inspections Division

Notice Restricting the Movement of Individual Cattle (continuation sheet)

CPH No

0 7 5 3 3 3 0 0 0 2 4

Date

1 June 2018

	Official animal identification number		Age	Breed	Sex	Nature of discrepancy	Action required to lift restriction
LA25	UK582307306347	X	9 Y, 8 M	11 LU	F	Late Registration	Present animal for inspection
CA08	UK582307606581	X	10 Y, 9 M	14 AAX	M	Late Registration	Present animal for inspection
CA117	UK582307106597	X	11 Y, 6 M	11 M LIMX	M	Late Registration	Present animal for inspection
CA62	UK582307306599	X	9 Y, 1 M	11 M CHX	M	Late Registration	Present animal for inspection
A121	UK540635701526	X	10 Y, 6 M	92 M AAX	C	No Passport	Receive Replacement
C162	UK160957601725	X	2 Y, 2 M	103 M HE	C	No Passport	Receive Replacement
C295	UK582307506335	X	2 Y, 0 M	26 LU	H	No Passport	Receive Notice of Registration
L2124	UK582307206339	X	118 Y, 4 M	22 LU	H	No Passport	Receive Replacement
FLAMEN	UK542626302270	X	0 Y, 7 M	93 CHX	M	No Passport	Receive Notice of Registration
ORNEY	UK523602400476	X	8 Y, 2 M	26 LU	M	Purchased Bull	Record still to inspect
LO1	UK583767200026	X	1 Y, 2 M	122 LU	C	TG1	Tag Correctly
CO4	UK104014700386	X	2 Y, 2 M	110 HEX	C	TG1	Tag Correctly
LI46	UK582363100416	X	8 Y, 11 M	171 LU	C	TG1	Tag Correctly
M140	UK104014500468	X	1 Y, 10 M	85 HEX	C	TG1	Tag Correctly
C122	UK582044600490	X	2 Y, 2 M	86 AAX	C	TG1	Tag Correctly
M135	UK305903500500	X	0 Y, 11 M	114 HEX	C	TG1	Tag Correctly
M102	UK583790700616	X	1 Y, 1 M	129 AAX	C	TG1	Tag Correctly
CO14	UK160957301183	X	1 Y, 1 M	138 HEX	C	TG1	Tag Correctly
MC39	UK160957201672	X	0 Y, 11 M	109 HE	C	TG1	Tag Correctly
CAVALIER	UK542794100350	X	1 Y, 2 M	126 LIM	M	TG1	Tag Correctly
L7??	UK582307706267	X	0 Y, 10 M	26 LU	M	TG1	Tag Correctly
L2106	UK582307706288	X	0 Y, 11 M	24 LU	M	TG1	Tag Correctly
M123	UK582685400398	X	118 Y, 4 M	110 AAX	C	TG3	Tag Correctly
CO8	UK104014600399	X	7 Y, 9 M	107 HEX	C	TG3	Tag Correctly
LI41	UK582203700431	X	1 Y, 2 M	49 LU	C	TG3	Tag Correctly
M51	UK104014500433	X	1 Y, 2 M	96 LIMX	C	TG3	Tag Correctly
CO9	UK581451400450	X	1 Y, 3 M	48 BSH	C	TG3	Tag Correctly
C31	UK104014600455	X	1 Y, 2 M	88 HEX	C	TG3	Tag Correctly
M143	UK104014100457	X	1 Y, 1 M	86 HEX	C	TG3	Tag Correctly
L37	UK582602201084	X	4 Y, 10 M	71 LU	C	TG3	Tag Correctly
A11	UK582087401092	X	4 Y, 0 M	73 AAX	C	TG3	Tag Correctly
M48	UK561834101218	X	4 Y, 1 M	80 SMX	C	TG3	Tag Correctly

Continuation sheet number

2

of

3

abinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and
Connectivity
Fergus Ewing MSP



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

F/T: 0300 244 4000
E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Mr Finlay Carson MSP
The Scottish Parliament
EDINBURGH
EH99 1SP

Your ref: [REDACTED]
Our ref: 2018/0018170
13 June 2018

Dear Finlay,

Thank you for your e mail dated 5th June 2018 and I am pleased that you found the earlier meeting with officials helpful.

I am sorry to hear that the correspondence that was issued as part of lifting the whole herd movement restriction contained errors and I asked for an urgent explanation of what happened. I am told that the person who created the form that was sent to Mr Gourlay, did so using an Excel function to populate the form from the appropriate data set. Unfortunately, there appears to have been an error with the use of this function which created the incorrect ages on the form. The use of this Excel function is not standard process for completing these forms but I will say that it was used in this case with the best of intentions in order to complete the forms as quickly as possible. In this particular instance the ages of the animals are not relevant to this part of the enquiry and for this reason, whilst they should have been, they were not double checked and it was not noticed that some were obviously incorrect.

Whilst I can only apologise for this omission what I will say is that the process used was intended to help get the previous notice of restriction lifted as quickly as possible. This haste would appear to have led to the errors on the form being un-noticed but, again, I emphasise that the age information is not relevant to this part of the enquiry. My officials have confirmed that all the other details in the form are correct.

You highlighted one cow that was not home bred or registered by the business. The reason for this animal being on the list is that it was found to have lost both tags at the inspection and therefore the required process is for a follow up check to ensure that the tags have been correctly replaced to satisfy the traceability requirements that is the purpose of the inspection.

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Regarding the initial period of notice given to bring in those cattle which require further checking. We do of course recognise the difficulties that gathering cattle can have close to spring turn out and, as I said to you previously, we take full account of animal welfare and health and safety. We also recognise that farmers need the capability to gather their stock at any time of year for any number of reasons including their own obligations under welfare responsibilities. The initial suggested date recognised the desire from the business to progress the inspection to a final position as soon as possible. I understand that when this was raised as inconvenient a mutually acceptable date was very quickly agreed.

I hope this provides the answers and explanations you were looking for and I can assure you that I have asked my officials to progress this inspection taking account of the particular circumstances that you have mentioned.



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The Scottish Parliament

25 July 2018

Dear Cabinet Secretary,

I am once again contacting you to raise my serious concerns surrounding the length of time and conflicting information being given by RIPD to a business, which trades in part, in my constituency of Galloway and West Dumfries.

Following your initial intervention, I met with senior government officials and representatives from the local RPID office in Parliament in May, at that meeting I raised concerns about the length of time it had taken thus far (inspection started in January 18) and the intolerable stress the farming family were now under. I was assured that the investigation had been complex, due in part, to the number of animals involved. At the time I was given an assurance by [REDACTED] that the case would conclude in approximately 3 weeks and that he understood the timescales were not 'a comfortable situation'.

Today, I find myself seeking a further intervention from you as Cabinet Secretary. The time scale advised in May did not materialise; in the email below you will see that [REDACTED] has provided a new timescale and explanation. However, this case has still not concluded to date, with Mr Gourlay receiving a letter dated 25th July from RPID in Dumfries stating 'I envisage compilation of findings will conclude in the next few weeks'.

Not only are the timescales questionable, but in the RPID communication it clearly states that Trading Standards are involved, however in correspondence from Trading Standards they say they are waiting for information from RPID.

I completely understand the complexity of this case, however I am very concerned about the responsibility and duty of care that is required to assist this farming family and their workforce and the stress and burden this ongoing investigation is having on the wellbeing of everybody involved.

We are now six months in, if it was not a 'comfortable situation' in May, surely this process is flawed, we are now at the end of July with apparently no clear end time in sight!

I write in search of your assistance once again, I am seeking a clear understanding of when this case is going to conclude and clarification on the contradictory information that is being provided to Mr Gourlay.

Yours sincerely,

Finlay Carson
Member of the Scottish Parliament for Galloway and West Dumfries



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