

Document 04

-----Original Message-----

From: Voas AP (Andrew)

Sent: 27 March 2018 15:46

To: Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and Connectivity [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]; Voas S (Sheila) [redacted]; Gallego J (Jesus) [redacted]

Subject: RE: Commission for urgent advice

[redacted]

Regarding the journeys of calves from Scotland to Spain, the original Times article from 26 February and the wording below contain several misrepresentations of the actual situation.

A more balanced description based on my understanding and first-hand experience would be:

Male dairy calves of a few weeks old that would otherwise have no economic value in the UK and have been killed soon after birth are carefully selected from farms in the south of Scotland and Northern England as suitable for transport to Spain. Rather than veal production, most will be reared to 8 months to one year old where they will be kept in accordance with the same EU legislation that applies in Scotland before being slaughtered in abattoirs approved in accordance with EU legislation. There is no evidence that the farms these animals will be kept on and the abattoirs used are any better or worse for animal welfare than UK facilities.

The calves are gathered at an assembly centre in Scotland where they are fed and rested in straw bedded pens. Here they are all checked by a veterinary surgeon to ensure they are fit for transport and comply with the relevant health requirements. They may also be inspected by APHA officials at the time of loading. Their typical onward journey then involves transport to Northern Ireland via the Cairnryan-Larne ferry, where they are rested for over 24 hours in a similar facility subject to official control and fed at least three times. They then travel via ferry from the Republic of Ireland to France, where they are again rested for 24 hours in an approved control post under veterinary control and fed before the final leg of the journey to Spain with the required mid-journey rest. Although the overall journey length can therefore be over 90 hours from the assembly centre, this includes substantial rest periods and regular feeds. Very high standard modern road vehicles are used which provide suitable straw bedding, water supply and adjustable ventilation with fans depending on the environmental conditions. The ferries used are large, stable reliable freight vessels with special arrangements for carrying livestock vehicles in covered well ventilated deck areas separate from other vehicles. Calves typically lie down during the times they are in motion and are reported to do well after arrival in Spain. The timings of planned journeys are approved in advance by APHA to ensure they comply with EU legislation and returned completed journey logs are returned to them for checking. There are similar journeys of calves from other parts of Europe, including Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. The trade varies depending

on the strength of sterling and seems to have become a regular trade again in 2017 after restarting in 2016 because of this.

Although this is not something we have publicised yet, we have an ongoing SG funded research project monitoring the condition of consignments of calves from Scotland after they arrive in Spain to provide objective scientific evidence about how the calves do in the two weeks after these journeys. This will run for the rest of this year to collect information about calves transported in a range of weather conditions.

[redacted – out of scope]

I hope this is helpful

Regards
Andrew

Andrew Voas BVM&S MRCVS
Scottish Government Veterinary Head of Animal Welfare / Spur P / Saughton House
/ Broomhouse Drive / Edinburgh / EH11 3XD / [redacted]

-----Original Message-----

From: [redacted] On Behalf Of Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and Connectivity

Sent: 27 March 2018 14:35

To: [redacted]; Voas AP (Andrew)

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and Connectivity; [redacted]

Subject: FW: Commission for urgent advice

[redacted]/Andrew

On the back of this article in the Times on Sunday, Cab Sec would like some advice on whether this is the case and what our position is on the specific concerns raised

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/calves-packed-into-lorries-for-135-hour-journey-bd579x0sk>

[redacted]

Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and Connectivity

[redacted]

Document 05

From: Voas AP (Andrew)

Sent: 14 June 2018 14:26

To: Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and Connectivity [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]; Voas S (Sheila) [redacted]; Mitchell E (Elinor) [redacted]; Gallego J (Jesus) [redacted]

Subject: RE: Calf exports - potential problem with P&O

For further information, this potential problem has now been resolved – P&O have confirmed they will continue to accept calves from Cairnryan to Larne.

Andrew

Andrew Voas BVM&S MRCVS

Scottish Government Veterinary Head of Animal Welfare / Spur P / Saughton House / Broomhouse Drive / Edinburgh / EH11 3XD / [redacted]

From: Voas AP (Andrew)

Sent: 12 June 2018 13:25

To: Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and Connectivity

Cc: [redacted]; Voas S (Sheila); Mitchell E (Elinor); Gallego J (Jesus); [redacted]

Subject: Calf exports - potential problem with P&O

For information only at this point

P&O have informed calf exporters that they will no longer be accepting calves for export from Scotland to Spain on their Cairnryan-Larne route because of concerns raised by campaigners. I have discussed this directly with [redacted] with P&O and sent [redacted] an e-mail explaining our view of this trade and the importance of the SG funded research project, asking [redacted] to reconsider. [redacted]

Hopefully this will allow P&O to revert to their previous practice without attracting unnecessary attention. [redacted]

Andrew Voas BVM&S MRCVS

Scottish Government Veterinary Head of Animal Welfare / Spur P / Saughton House / Broomhouse Drive / Edinburgh / EH11 3XD / [redacted]

Document 09-A

From: Voas AP (Andrew)

Sent: 13 September 2018 14:07

To: [redacted]

Subject: FW: BBC Complaint

[redacted]

Please attach to your reply to Cab Sec for info.

Thanks

Andrew

From: Voas AP (Andrew)

Sent: 13 September 2018 12:32

To: [redacted]

Cc: Voas S (Sheila) [redacted]

Subject: FW: BBC Complaint

[redacted] - for info

Andrew

From: [redacted]@nfus.org.uk>
Sent: 13 September 2018 12:26
Subject: BBC Complaint

For your information I have attached a copy of the letter we have sent to the BBC in response to the 'Dark side of dairy' documentary that aired on Monday. We will keep you updated on any response but if you have also made any representation to the BBC it would be useful if you are able to share it with us.

Regards

[redacted]

Document 12

From: [redacted]
Sent: 16 October 2018 17:30
To: Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]; Voas S (Sheila); [redacted]; Voas AP (Andrew) [redacted]; Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy [redacted]
Subject: Lines to take - calf exports - new development - Minister view

Hi [redacted]

The Minister received an update from Andrew Voas at 15:35 today, concerning two consignments of cattle to Spain (see email trail for reference).

[redacted]

From: Voas AP (Andrew)
Sent: 16 October 2018 15:35
To: Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment [redacted]; Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy [redacted]; [redacted]; Voas S (Sheila) [redacted]
Subject: Calf exports - new development

For awareness, we have been informed by APHA that 2 consignments of male dairy calves born in Scotland and northern England have moved today from Dumbretton Assembly centre near Annan to travel to Spain via the mvJoline dedicated livestock transport ferry, which is due to sail from Ramsgate late this evening. As with previous consignments from Scotland over the last couple of years, our understanding is that these calves are destined for further rearing for meat production over several months in Spain on farms subject to EU animal welfare legislation and eventual slaughter in a Spanish abattoir subject to EU welfare legislation. The route to be used has been assessed as compliant with EU transport legislation by APHA and the calves will have been checked carefully by a local vet at Dumbretton before export.

The Joline service tends to be unreliable due to the weather particularly in the autumn, but if it does sail tonight the overall journey time will be less than the

previously used route via Ireland, although the road distance is slightly greater. There will be a stop at a control post in northern France for the calves to be properly fed and rested off the vehicle for 24 hours.

As the sailings of the Joline are closely monitored by the animal rights group KAALE and calves have not been carried on this route for several years it seems likely this will attract media attention in the next few days regarding the future of live exports and the unbalanced portrayal of the trade in the recent BBC Scotland documentary, which led to the refusal by P&O to accept these consignments on the Cairnryan – Larne route.

Andrew Voas BVM&S MRCVS

Scottish Government Veterinary Head of Animal Welfare / Spur P / Saughton House / Broomhouse Drive / Edinburgh / EH11 3XD / [redacted]

Document 14

From: [redacted]

Sent: 23 October 2018 15:24

To: Voas S (Sheila) [redacted]; [redacted]@nfus.org.uk' [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]; Voas AP (Andrew) [redacted]

Subject: RE: Times Enquiry - live exports of Scottish calves via Ramsgate

[redacted]

Thanks for your e-mail. I can confirm that the Scottish Government has been informed that 2 consignments of male dairy calves from Scotland and the north of England left Dumbretton assembly centre and were scheduled to be shipped from Ramsgate yesterday evening as part of their journey to Spain. As with previous consignemnts shipped by P&O via Cairnryan, our understanding is that these calves are destined for further rearing for meat production over several months in Spain on farms subject to EU animal welfare legislation and eventual slaughter in a Spanish abattoir subject to EU welfare legislation.

Hope this helps.

[redacted]

From: [redacted] **On Behalf Of** Voas S (Sheila)

Sent: 23 October 2018 15:15

To: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]; Voas AP (Andrew) [redacted]

Subject: FW: Times Enquiry - live exports of Scottish calves via Ramsgate

Importance: High

[redacted]

[redacted – out of scope] – are you able to respond to [redacted]

From: [redacted]@nfus.org.uk>
Sent: 23 October 2018 13:45
To: Voas S (Sheila) [redacted]; Voas AP (Andrew) [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]

Subject: Times Enquiry - live exports of Scottish calves via Ramsgate

Good afternoon Sheila and Andrew

I have just taken the following email enquiry from the Times regarding the export of Scottish male dairy calves to France via Ramsgate

[redacted – out of scope]. Are you able to confirm that Scottish calves are still being exported?

[redacted] it would be useful to know if the report is accurate.

Thanks

[redacted]

From: [redacted]@thetimes.co.uk>
Sent: 23 October 2018 13:35
To: [redacted]@nfus.org.uk>
Subject: live exports

Hi [redacted], a truck carrying calves as young as three years old from Scotland left Ramsgate for France last week. It seems the Scottish dairy industry has found a new route for live export of male dairy calves, via England, since the P&O ban. It would be get a comment from NFU Scotland on this and whether it still supports such live exports and why.

many thanks

[redacted]