

Emails/ chains on 17th October Emails

16 Email chains

Email 1

RE: BSE - positive test results

And with earlier email re caveating – I would wait in fact for the update to go based on the written report (as long as APHA have not briefed UK Ministers...) so tomorrow morning for update is fine

Kate Higgins

From: Higgins K (Kate)
Sent: 17 October 2018 17:59
To: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

agreed

Kate Higgins

From: Voas S (Sheila)
Sent: 17 October 2018 17:46
To: <Redacted>
Subject: Re: BSE - positive test results

OK. Can you go home rather than hang about waiting? I could do a very brief update for FM and DFM by BlackBerry tonight and we can do the rest early in the morning?

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone

From: Ambrose N (Nick) Dr
Sent: Wednesday, 17 October 2018 17:35
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>

We have a fire alarm at saughton House. 30 mins outside so far, may be sometime yet. We have been told possibly an hour so the update will be late.
Nick

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: Voas S (Sheila)
Sent: Wednesday, 17 October 2018 17:00
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: Re: BSE - positive test results

I'm now on a train back to edinburgh so not ideal to talk. As we don't plan to release until morning now perhaps we could do either after back in edinburgh (10pm) or tomorrow am.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment
Sent: Wednesday, 17 October 2018 15:38
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: Re: BSE - positive test results

Yes, Ms Gougeon will call you when she's got a signal

Mariella

From: Voas S (Sheila)
Sent: Wednesday, 17 October 2018 15:22
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

That's fine. I'm in London but will probably head back on train early evening on comms advice rather than go on to BCVA so will
Be able to take calls for a while. Is Ms G happy to call me?

Sheila M Voas, BVM&S, MRCVS

Chief Veterinary Officer (Scotland)
Animal Health and Welfare Division,
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate,
The Scottish Government
Saughton House, Spur P, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD
Phone <Redacted>Fax <Redacted>
Mobile <Redacted>
email: <Redacted>

From: Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment
Sent: 17 October 2018 15:19
To: <Redacted>
Subject: Re: BSE - positive test results

Sheila

Ms Gougeon has noted the update and would welcome a call with you. Her signal is patchy at the moment so it may be a while before she's able to call.

Thanks

Mariella

From: Voas S (Sheila)
Sent: Wednesday, 17 October 2018 15:15
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Thanks Kevin,

Sam in my team has already worked up a Q and A which is with comms and ready to be put on website when we go live with the news release.

We AHWD are planning a stakeholder telecom to ensure key players are aware. Once we have written results I would propose a more formal submission of them to include recipients of the original submission plus FM, DFM, Health, FSS etc.

We will also work up a SCANCE note as suggested for next weeks meeting.

Can you confirm that this is acceptable to Cab Sec and that we should put our existing plans in action once written results received or if he wants to discuss further first.

Sheila M Voas, BVM&S, MRCVS

Chief Veterinary Officer (Scotland)
Animal Health and Welfare Division,
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate,
The Scottish Government
Saughton House, Spur P, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD
Phone <Redacted>Fax <Redacted>Mobile<Redacted>email: <Redacted>

From: Veitch K (Kevin) **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy
Sent: 17 October 2018 15:08
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Sheila


Mr Ewing has noted this disappointing news.

He thinks that many questions will obviously be asked and ask that Q&A will need to be worked up. He also wants to consider stakeholder engagement and providing an update to FM and DFM.

We will also need a SCANCE note for Cabinet on Tuesday.

Kind regards

Kevin Veitch

Private Secretary
Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy
2N.11
St Andrews House


From: Voas S (Sheila)
Sent: 17 October 2018 14:38
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Although we have emailed Cab Sec and the Minister both are on leave this week so suggest that we also await confirmation from Private Office that they are content before release it. However still waiting written lab confirmation of the results.

Sheila M Voas, BVM&S, MRCVS

Chief Veterinary Officer (Scotland)
Animal Health and Welfare Division,
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate,
The Scottish Government
Saughton House, Spur P, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD
Phone <Redacted> Fax <Redacted> Mobile <Redacted> email: <Redacted>

From: Boddice L (Luke)
Sent: 17 October 2018 14:32
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Copy of the release below amended to reflect classical. I will hold off issuing until Sheila has written confirmation.

Chasing FSS for the quote just now

BSE
Disease confirmed in Aberdeenshire

A case of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) has been confirmed on a farm in Aberdeenshire.

In line with the disease prevention response plan, precautionary movement restrictions have now been put in place at the farm, while further investigations to identify the origin of the disease occur.

This is standard procedure for a confirmed case of Classical BSE, which does not represent a threat to human health.

Rural Economy Secretary Fergus Ewing said:

“Following confirmation of a case of classical BSE in Aberdeenshire, I have activated the Scottish Government’s response plan to protect our valuable farming industry, including establishing a precautionary movement ban being placed on the farm.

“While it is important to stress that this is standard procedure until we have a clear understanding of the diseases origin, this is further proof that our surveillance system for detecting this type of disease is working. Be assured that the Scottish Government and its partners stand ready to respond to any further confirmed cases of the disease in Scotland.”

Chief Veterinary Officer Sheila Voas said:

“While it is too early to tell where the disease came from in this case, its detection is proof that our surveillance system is doing its job. We are working closely with the Animal and Plant Health Agency to answer this question, and in the meantime, I would urge any farmer who has concerns to immediately seek veterinary advice.

INSERT QUOTE FROM FSS STRESSING EXPERT ADVICE IS NO RISK TO HUMAN HEALTH OR FOOD CHAIN

Background

The Animal Health Agency (APHA) is investigating the source of the outbreak.

The case was identified as a result of strict control measures we have in place. It did not enter the human food chain and Food Standards Scotland have confirmed there is no risk to human health as a result of this isolated case.

All animals over four years of age that die on farm are routinely tested for BSE under our comprehensive surveillance system. Whilst the disease is not directly transmitted from animal to animal, its cohorts, including offspring, have been traced and isolated, and will be destroyed in line with EU requirements.

In addition to the measures we have in place for fallen stock and animal feed, there is a strict control regime to protect consumers. This includes the removal of specified risk material such as the spinal column, brain and skull from carcasses.

From: Waite S (Sheelagh) **On Behalf Of** Voas S (Sheila)

Sent: 17 October 2018 14:26

To: <Redacted>

Cc: <Redacted>

Subject: BSE - positive test results

Importance: High

All,

I have just received telephone notification from the TSE national reference laboratory at Weybridge that our suspect BSE in a 5 year old cow from Aberdeenshire has given positive test results for classical BSE. This is disappointing but we are not unique - both France and Ireland lost their statuses soon after getting them. I have

been discussing with Comms colleagues and we are ready to go with communications however I would prefer to wait until I have written confirmation of the results. This should happen within the next hour or so. I am happy to discuss with anyone who wishes more information but I am in London so would need a little bit of notice.

Sheila M Voas, BVM&S, MRCVS, ARAgS

Chief Veterinary Officer (Scotland)
Animal Health and Welfare Division,
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate,
The Scottish Government
Saughton House, Spur P, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD
Phone <Redacted>Fax <Redacted>Mobile <Redacted>email: <Redacted>

Email 2

RE: BSE Case - Summary facts

Move from <Redacted>reported previously as 12/12/12

Sheila M Voas, BVM&S, MRCVS

Chief Veterinary Officer (Scotland)
Animal Health and Welfare Division,
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate,
The Scottish Government
Saughton House, Spur P, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD

Phone<Redacted>Fax <Redacted>Mobile<Redacted>email: <Redacted>

From: Blissitt MJ (Martyn)

Sent: 17 October 2018 15:17

To: <Redacted>

Subject: BSE Case - Summary facts

Sheila – From BSE1 form:

- <Redacted>Aberdeenshire;<Redacted>Herd of <Redacted>pedigree<Redacted>
- Suspect – pedigree<Redacted> – homebred, only eaten mothers milk, grass, haylage;
- 2 Offspring (2017 and 2018) – 1 (2017 steer) slaughtered 28/9/18, one (2018 – 6 months heifer) alive on holding;
- 3 in cohort – all 5 year old cows and on the farm;
- Suspect well until 30/9/2018 showing hypomagnesaemia signs, Treated and partial recovery but fell into a watercourse 2/10/2018 and farmer decided to cull – dead by the time knackery arrived;
- Herd originated in <Redacted>

Chasing two further queries - ? 2016 calf and when moved from <Redacted>.

MB

Dr Martyn Blissitt

Veterinary Adviser (Notifiable Diseases),
Animal Health and Welfare Division,
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate,
Scottish Government,
Saughton House,
Broomhouse Drive,
Edinburgh EH11 3XD,

Email 3

RE: BSE line – Comms

Dear Nick,

Thank you for your patience.

Having considered the wording in red, we note that the first paragraph appears to contradict the second: the first says that there is no evidence that atypical BSE is transmissible, while the second says that it can be transmitted to humans. We support the second paragraph but can you clarify what the first paragraph refers to? We think it relates to transmissibility via contaminated feed.

Many thanks and best wishes

<Redacted>

(<Redacted>)

From: Ambrose N (Nick) Dr <Redacted>

Sent: 17 October 2018 13:55

To: <Redacted>

Cc: [<Redacted>](#)

Subject: BSE line - Comms

Dear <Redacted> and <Redacted>,

Our Comms team forwarded the note below, I think they will have responded to your Comms team on the factual basis for some of what is included. Obviously it is really important that we are all agreed on a set of facts for our Comms teams to report, and with reference to the piece below we note that contrary to the highlighted sections there is no evidence that atypical BSE is transmissible, or that it is a risk to public health. This is the basis for atypical BSE not having an impact on Negligible Risk status (or indeed eligibility). Hopefully you will be in a position to ensure this information is correct should it need to be released

We are awaiting the confirmatory results from APHA Weybridge, including an assessment of DNA matching with the source of the sample. We would expect to have both aspects in place before CVO Scotland confirms this as a BSE case. Helpfully all the CVOs are in one place at present, should there be a need for discussion of this investigation.

Please get in touch if there is anything you want to discuss around this.

Best wishes,
Nick

From: <Redacted>
Sent: 16 October 2018 15:27
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE line

Hi Luke,

Good to speak earlier. As discussed, below is our briefing on classical and atypical BSE – note in particular the highlighted line which notes that both can be transmitted to humans. Our understanding is also that in both cases all offspring and cohorts (cattle born in the same herd) need to be culled. Let us know if you have been told differently.

Great if you can also share your stakeholder / press handling over email so we can make sure it's accurately reflected in our update to SpAds and Ministers.

Thanks,
Juliet

Classical BSE was first diagnosed in the United Kingdom in 1986. It was first a European and later became a global problem affecting cattle. Epidemiological studies suggest that the source of this disease was **cattle feed prepared from BSE-infected animal tissues**, such as brain and spinal cord.

Whilst classical BSE was identified as a significant threat in the 90s, its occurrence has markedly decreased over the past years, as a result of the successful implementation of effective control measures and is now estimated to be extremely low (close to 0 cases).

Atypical BSE has different characteristics to classical BSE. Existing scientific evidence suggests that these atypical BSE types are sporadic or genetic prion diseases of cattle which are believed to occur in all cattle populations at a very low rate, and which have only been identified in older cattle when conducting intensive surveillance.

In the early 2000s, atypical prions causing atypical BSE were identified as the result of enhanced surveillance for transmissible spongiform encephalopathies. The number of cases of atypical BSE is negligible.

Indeed, whilst to date there is no evidence that atypical BSE is transmissible, recycling of the atypical BSE agent has not been ruled out, and therefore measures to manage exposure risk in the feed chain continue to be recommended as a precautionary measure.

The infectious agent – a prion – which causes classical and atypical BSE in cattle can be transmitted to humans through consumption of contaminated meat causing variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, which was first diagnosed in 1996. A prion is an abnormal form of a protein.

From: Boddice, L (Luke) <Redacted>
Sent: 16 October 2018 09:29
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE line

Yes, can take a call between 1430 and 1530.

Luke

From: <Redacted> <Redacted> <Redacted>
Sent: 16 October 2018 09:20
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE line

Thanks Luke. Are you free for a call this afternoon – any time between 2 – 4pm?

We'll call your direct line if that's easiest.

<Redacted>

From: Boddice, L (Luke) <Redacted>
Sent: 16 October 2018 09:18
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE line

<Redacted>

Apologies was out of the office yesterday. Happy to have a chat anytime this week.

Luke

From: <Redacted>
Sent: 15 October 2018 16:48
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE line

Hi Luke,

Copying in <Redacted> who is working up some comms handling for our Ministers / SpAds ahead of when the final tests are confirmed. We'll keep you in the loop.

Thanks,
<Redacted>

From: <Redacted>
Sent: 12 October 2018 17:47
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE line

Thanks for this Luke. Would be good to speak on Monday about contingency plans if the case is confirmed as classical BSE. I imagine one of your Ministers may want to do a WMS or give an Oral Statement?

Have a good weekend,

<Redacted>

From: Boddice, L (Luke) [<Redacted>
Sent: 12 October 2018 09:54
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted> <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE line

<Redacted>

For info.

The attached NR has been cleared at our end for when we need to go public. We DO NOT anticipate using this until the final results are confirmed – w/c 22/10.

Until then we are sticking to the lines I shared with you earlier this week. So far no approaches received.

Happy to chat, as required,

Luke

From: <Redacted>
Sent: 10 October 2018 13:25
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE line

Thanks Luke. We're flagging to teams here for info.

Please do keep us posted if you get any media queries (we'll of course do the same).

From: Boddice, L (Luke) [[Redacted](#)]

Sent: 10 October 2018 08:51

To: <Redacted>

Cc: [Redacted](#)

Subject: BSE line

<Redacted>,

Following our chat last night, please note below our holding line should this story break before the final tests are confirmed – expected w/c 22/10.

Regards,

Luke

SG said:

“We are aware of an investigation by APHA into a suspected BSE case in Scotland.

“Movement restrictions have been put in place at the farm in Aberdeenshire as a precaution and further investigations are happening to identify the origin of the disease.”

Luke Boddice | Comms Greener

Scottish Government, St Andrew's House

e: [Redacted](#)**t:** <Redacted>**m:**<Redacted>

Email 4

Re: BSE results.

Oh no what rotten timing for him. Can you let me know once he has been contacted. Tonight may be better than tomorrow morning if the funeral is tomorrow?

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: <Redacted>(APHA)

Sent: Wednesday, 17 October 2018 18:10

To: <Redacted>

Cc: <Redacted>

Subject: Re: BSE results.

Got that. Will action. I think farmer is burying <Redacted>but will try and contact him.

Sent from my iPhone. I apologise for any typos.

On 17 Oct 2018, at 18:06, <Redacted>(APHA) <Redacted>> wrote:

Thanks Sheila

This is not the result we wanted.

The identity tests are all positive. APHA Scotland are all geared up to go ahead with the next steps.

Please let us know anything else you need doing

Kind regards

<Redacted>

From: Voas, Sheila

Sent: 17 October 2018 17:43

To: <Redacted>

Cc: <Redacted>

Subject: BSE results.

<Redacted>

The lab have informed me that this sample has tested positive for classical BSE and so SG are preparing to go public with the information tomorrow. Comms here have been / will continue to be in discussion with Defra and APHA comms about precise timing and choreography about what we all say and when, and Christine and Defra TSE Team are aware. Grateful if you would NOT share this information further for now.

However grateful for confirmation that you will be able to inform the farmer early tomorrow morning as we would not want him to find out by means of a press release. Obviously whoever speaks to him will need to know!!!

Sheila

EMAIL 5

From: Ambrose N (Nick) Dr <Redacted>>

Sent: 17 October 2018 08:38

To: <Redacted>

Subject: Re: Request for a supportive comment for possible BSE press release

We will ensure this point is clear in comms when we meet today.

N

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: Blissitt MJ (Martyn)

Sent: Wednesday, 17 October 2018 08:12

To: <Redacted>

Cc: Voas AP (Andrew)

Subject: RE: Request for a supportive comment for possible BSE press release

Understood.

MB

From: Voas S (Sheila)

Sent: 16 October 2018 23:01

To: <Redacted>

Cc: <Redacted>

Subject: RE: Request for a supportive comment for possible BSE press release

To defend my corner

This was an older animal ie over 48 months and so was tested as part of the older cattle testing requirement

It wasn't destined for the food chain – it died on farm

It may be there is a better way to convey that info but I do think that it is important to reassure people that this was not a prime beast that could have gone to slaughter without further checks.

Happy if you want to fight back

Sheila M Voas, BVM&S, MRCVS

Chief Veterinary Officer (Scotland)

Animal Health and Welfare Division,

Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate,

The Scottish Government

Saughton House, Spur P, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD

Phone <Redacted>

Fax <Redacted>

Mobile <Redacted>

email: <Redacted>



From: Blissitt MJ (Martyn)

Sent: 16 October 2018 20:31

To: <Redacted>

Cc: <Redacted>

Subject: FW: Request for a supportive comment for possible BSE press release

Sheila / Nick – Suggest lose the single positive result was from an older animal not destined or the food chain as I think our suspect was only 5 years old?

Previous suggestions to include:

- negligible risk does not mean no risk – it means you might get sporadic cases;
- other countries have experienced similar rare sporadic cases – ROI/Wales;
- this case might represent background sporadic incidence unrelated to epidemic BSE;
- All appropriate and proven animal and public health controls are in place;
- Add a line about the number of negative fallen stock results from Scottish cattle;
- The case demonstrates the effectiveness and sensitivity of the current surveillance

I wouldn't want Defra Comms to be driving this – we should be.

MB

EMAIL 6

From: <Redacted>

Sent: 16 October 2018 18:08

To: <Redacted>

Cc: <Redacted>

Subject: RE: Request for a supportive comment for possible BSE press release

Hi Sheila - we will get onto this and send lines back tomorrow. <Redacted> /<Redacted> can you please see email trail and pull together draft lines please.

Can discuss in between board meeting sessions tomorrow

Regards

<Redacted>

Sent with BlackBerry Work
(www.blackberry.com)

From: Voas S (Sheila) <Redacted>

Date: Tuesday, 16 Oct 2018, 4:06 pm

To: <Redacted> **Cc:** <Redacted>

Subject: Request for a supportive comment for possible BSE press release

Hi <Redacted>, <Redacted>, <Redacted> and <Redacted>
Cc <Redacted> and <Redacted>

Apologies for the scattergun approach.

My team notified FSS of a BSE suspect last week . I hope that you have all now had sight of the email (attached for ease) We are expecting (hopefully negative) results by the end of this week and are in the process of pulling together a draft press release in the event that this comes back with a positive test result from the National Reference Laboratory.

Comms colleagues have requested that we ask you for a supportive comment on food safety, hence this follow up email.

Hopefully you will be able to provide us with something along the lines of

There is no increase in the risk to human health from this finding

There are robust controls in place.

It is not unexpected that sporadic cases of BSE continue to be detected

This single positive result was from an older animal not destined or the food chain

It shows that our ongoing surveillance systems are working as expected

I'm on a train so hard to chat but if you want or need more info then can speak later (probably after 6pm) or by email

Sheila M Voas, BVM&S, MRCVS

Chief Veterinary Officer (Scotland)
Animal Health and Welfare Division,
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate,
The Scottish Government
Saughton House, Spur P, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD
Phone <Redacted>
Fax <Redacted>
Mobile <Redacted>
email: <Redacted>



EMAIL 7

From: <Redacted> (APHA) <Redacted>
Sent: 17 October 2018 14:17
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: <Redacted>

Hi Sam

Below are the bovine fallen stock tested from Scotland between 2013 to 2015.

Year	Scotland
2013	26459
2014	21515
2015	20990

Query used: BR_Scotland_Active_Testing removal of sampling_fee_140917

Thanks
Regards
<Redacted>

From: [Samuel.Mcdonald](#)<Redacted> <Redacted>
Sent: 17 October 2018 12:18
To: <Redacted>

Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: <Redacted>

<Redacted>,

I am putting some figures together in relation to this suspected BSE case in Scotland. From previous emails on the cost share proposal you gave me numbers for >48 month fallen cattle that were tested for TSE for 2017 and 2016. Would you be able to provide numbers for 2013-2015 in Scotland?

Kind regards,

Sam

Sam McDonald

Disease Prevention
Animal Health and Welfare Division (P Spur)
Directorate for Agriculture Food and Rural Communities, Scottish Government
Saughton House, Broomhouse Drive, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD

Tel: <Redacted>
Fax: <Redacted>

<Redacted>

EMAIL 8

From: Veitch K (Kevin<Redacted> **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy
Sent: 17 October 2018 15:08
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Sheila

Mr Ewing has noted this disappointing news.

He thinks that many questions will obviously be asked and ask that Q&A will need to be worked up. He also wants to consider stakeholder engagement and providing an update to FM and DFM.

We will also need a SCANCE note for Cabinet on Tuesday.

Kind regards

Kevin Veitch

Private Secretary
Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy
2N.11

St Andrews House

☎ <Redacted>

☎ <Redacted>

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

From: Voas S (Sheila)

Sent: 17 October 2018 14:38

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Animal Health and Welfare Division,
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate,
The Scottish Government
Saughton House, Spur P, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD

Phone <Redacted>

Fax <Redacted>

Mobile <Redacted>

email: [<Redacted>](mailto:Sheila.Voas@scot.nhs.uk)



From: Boddice L (Luke)
Sent: 17 October 2018 14:32
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

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This is standard procedure for a confirmed case of Classical BSE, which does not represent a threat to human health.

Rural Economy Secretary Fergus Ewing said:

“Following confirmation of a case of classical BSE in Aberdeenshire, I have activated the Scottish Government’s response plan to protect our valuable farming industry, including establishing a precautionary movement ban being placed on the farm.

“While it is important to stress that this is standard procedure until we have a clear understanding of the diseases origin, this is further proof that our surveillance system for detecting this type of disease is working. Be assured that the Scottish Government and its partners stand ready to respond to any further confirmed cases of the disease in Scotland.”

Chief Veterinary Officer Sheila Voas said:

“While it is too early to tell where the disease came from in this case, its detection is proof that our surveillance system is doing its job. We are working closely with the Animal and Plant Health Agency to answer this question, and in the meantime, I would urge any farmer who has concerns to immediately seek veterinary advice.

INSERT QUOTE FROM FSS STRESSING EXPERT ADVICE IS NO RISK TO HUMAN HEALTH OR FOOD CHAIN

Background

The Animal Health Agency (APHA) is investigating the source of the outbreak.

The case was identified as a result of strict control measures we have in place. It did not enter the human food chain and Food Standards Scotland have confirmed there is no risk to human health as a result of this isolated case.

All animals over four years of age that die on farm are routinely tested for BSE under our comprehensive surveillance system. Whilst the disease is not directly transmitted from

animal to animal, its cohorts, including offspring, have been traced and isolated, and will be destroyed in line with EU requirements.

In addition to the measures we have in place for fallen stock and animal feed, there is a strict control regime to protect consumers. This includes the removal of specified risk material such as the spinal column, brain and skull from carcasses.

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Sent: 17 October 2018 14:26

To: <Redacted>

Cc: <Redacted>

Subject: BSE - positive test results

Importance: High

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Sheila M Voas, BVM&S, MRCVS, ARAgS

Chief Veterinary Officer (Scotland)

Animal Health and Welfare Division,

Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate,

The Scottish Government

Saughton House, Spur P, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD

Phone <Redacted>

Fax <Redacted>

Mobile <Redacted>

email: <Redacted>

EMAIL 9

From: Murdoch I J (Ian) <Redacted>

Sent: 17 October 2018 16:29

To: <Redacted>

Cc: <Redacted>

Subject: SCANCE Note

Sam

As discussed. Could you start working on a SCANCE note for the classical BSE case. The note that went to FM/DFM should provide a starting point. We very rarely provide papers for Cabinet so just ask away if you need help. Here is the link to the guidance where you will find the SCANCE template

<http://saltire/my-workplace/ministerial-preferences-and-support/best-practice/Pages/preparing-papers-for-cabinet.aspx>

Ian Murdoch

Animal Health - Disease Prevention Team | Animal Health & Welfare Division | Directorate for Agriculture & Rural Economy | Scottish Government
Tel. <Redacted>

Email 10

From: Voas S (Sheila) <Redacted>
Sent: 17 October 2018 12:20
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: Fw:BSE Comms Planning

Can attend this if required (maybe a few minutes late) but would need dial in details. However if you don't need me that's fine.

Sheila M Voas, BVM&S, MRCVS

Chief Veterinary Officer (Scotland)
Animal Health and Welfare Division,
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate,
The Scottish Government
Saughton House, Spur P, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD

<Redacted>

-----Original Appointment-----

From: Dick J (Julie)
Sent: 16 October 2018 20:08
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: Fw:BSE Comms Planning
When: 17 October 2018 12:30-13:30 (UTC+00:00) Dublin, Edinburgh, Lisbon, London.
Where: SH Ground Floor Meeting Room P-1 (16)

Ian, Sam, for you as well.

Sheila, Martyn For info - so you know what we are up to. With the current status of information I will be suggesting two different lines to be ready.

Nick

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.
Hi Nick

I have had a chat with Luke, can we catch up to discuss some planning around stakeholder comms/social media etc around BSE, I have a copy of the signed off news release

Thanks

Julie

Julie Dick
Head of ARE Communications
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate
Scottish Government
Saughton House | C1 Spur | EH11 3XD
<Redacted>

Email 11

From: Blissitt MJ (Martyn) <Redacted>
Sent: 17 October 2018 09:49
To: <Redacted>
Subject: FW: OFFICIAL SENSITIVE: RBSE 18/00003 - recent BSE fallen stock case

Nick – to see too.
MB

From: Voas S (Sheila)
Sent: 17 October 2018 09:16
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: OFFICIAL SENSITIVE: RBSE 18/00003 - recent BSE fallen stock case

Hi <Redacted> many thanks

All the CVOs are together today so probably won't need to have a formal stocktake today. If after that they will reconsider as <Redacted> is 't coming to BCVA until later tomorrow. So grateful if you could let me, Martyn and <Redacted> know in advance of sharing more widely ie this copy list, or phone me.

Many thanks

Sheila

Sheila M Voas, BVM&S, MRCVS

Chief Veterinary Officer (Scotland)
Animal Health and Welfare Division,
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate,
The Scottish Government
Saughton House, Spur P, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD

<Redacted>

<Redacted>

From: <Redacted>

Sent: 17 October 2018 08:33

To: <Redacted>

Cc: <Redacted>

Subject: RE: OFFICIAL SENSITIVE: RBSE 18/00003 - recent BSE fallen stock case

Sheila

Please advise how you would like further results and if you want a discussion/stocktake

Best wishes

<Redacted>

From: <Redacted>

Sent: 16 October 2018 21:48

To: [<Redacted>](#)

Cc: <Redacted>

Subject: Re: OFFICIAL SENSITIVE: RBSE 18/00003 - recent BSE fallen stock case

Thank you all.

Noted by me.

Note to all in Defra and APHA that I request no information to be shared wider than this group until I am content having consulted with CVO Scotland who is lead in this case.

Thanks

<Redacted>

Sent from my iPhone

On 16 Oct 2018, at 20:48, "<Redacted>" wrote:

<Redacted> – Many thanks. This is clear. We await discriminatory test results and DNA matching. All results will need to be available before anybody goes public, so this needs to be kept as Official Sensitive for now. SG policy and SG Comms are in the lead..

CVO Scotland may wish to consider holding a CVO stocktake teleconference when all results are known.

Might I suggest that CVO Scotland and CVO UK are personally the first recipients of any deleterious news when all results are in? I shall try to communicate this to both tonight.

Thanks to your team for the prompt report,

MB

Dr Martyn Blissitt

Veterinary Adviser (Notifiable Diseases),
Animal Health and Welfare Division,
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate,
Scottish Government,
Saughton House,
Broomhouse Drive,
Edinburgh EH11 3XD,

From: <Redacted>

Sent: 16 October 2018 20:30

To: <Redacted>

Cc: <Redacted>

Subject: OFFICIAL SENSITIVE: RBSE 18/00003 - recent BSE fallen stock case

Dear All

The confirmatory laboratories at APHA Weybridge have completed Western blot testing and Immunohistochemistry (IHC) for RBSE 18/00003. I have taken the decision to provide you with the following findings resulting from our confirmatory testing investigations into this case:

- IHC testing – confirmatory output - POSITIVE for BSE
- Western Blot testing – confirmatory and discriminatory output – at this stage, the western blot results support the IHC positive result and indicate further scrutiny via Glycoform analysis was required for the

western blot banding pattern observed for RBSE 18/00003. This analysis enables us to discriminate clearly between classical and atypical forms of BSE. The laboratory have undertaken this analysis this evening and the results have just been completed. We intend to consult with our pathologist tomorrow morning and present our further data, ahead of the official reporting of the outcome on this case.

Our APHA Sequencing Unit are currently working on the following:

- DNA matching – Cattle Microsatellite Identification (CMI) testing – results anticipated Late Wednesday/early Thursday this week.

This email constitutes a sit rep of testing outcomes so far for this case and will be followed by official reporting of the confirmed BSE case by the appointed APHA pathologist, once all the data for this case have been considered. As more results become available I will update you swiftly.

With very best wishes

<Redacted>

From: Blissitt MJ (Martyn) <Redacted>

Sent: 16 October 2018 13:10

To: <Redacted>

Cc: <Redacted>

Subject: RE: Scotland BSE Suspect - Weybridge testing schedule

<Redacted> – Many thanks.

We are also hoping that the DNA matching tests will not prove to be an additional problem, as that could throw a spanner in the works.

SG colleagues – please note yellow text below.

MB

Dr Martyn Blissitt

Veterinary Adviser (Notifiable Diseases),
Animal Health and Welfare Division,
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate,

Scottish Government,
Saughton House,
Broomhouse Drive,
Edinburgh EH11 3XD,

From: <Redacted>
Sent: 16 October 2018 12:32
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: Re: Scotland BSE Suspect - Weybridge testing schedule

Thank <Redacted>

Martyn - we have prepared an explanatory table re the confirmatory testing timescales. Once I am back from Germany I will discuss with the team and send on to you and Sheila.

I can confirm that all cases are given the highest priority in the lab - and TRT is usually under a week from receipt by us. The extended timescale in the contract is to allow for the complexity of handling poor material/interpretation issues that can occur.

Best wishes

<Redacted>

<Redacted>

On 16 Oct 2018, at 13:21, <Redacted> wrote:

Dear Martyn

Just to provide a succinct summary for you from the NRL and confirmatory testing perspectives:

Western blotting is under way and we hope to have results this evening.
IHC is also under way and should be available tomorrow.

There has been no early indication of any obvious issues with tissue quality. With that in mind we hope to have confirmatory testing wrapped up within the week.

We will notify you of any outcomes ASAP.

With best wishes
<Redacted>

Sent from my iPhone

On 16 Oct 2018, at 11:50, <Redacted> wrote:

Can you please indicate what time today these results will be available - Brenda's response indicates end of the week, however I am expecting a result later today.

Many thanks

<Redacted>

<Redacted>

Begin forwarded message:

From: "<Redacted> <Redacted>>

Date: 16 October 2018 at 11:58:54 CEST

To: <Redacted>

Cc: <Redacted>

Subject: RE: Scotland BSE Suspect - Weybridge testing schedule

Hi Martyn

If there is a mismatch with our CMI testing:

- ? We have 40 samples either ear, hide or both at APHA Office in Dumfries.
- ? We do not have any DNA material samples for 6 of the 46 brain stem samples submitted on the same day as the suspect because ears were mistakenly discarded (23 ears discarded) and the hides were of poor quality so the carcasses were not skinned and with skin intact rendered once the brainstem was taken.
- ? However, we should know the holding details as per the submission form for the 6 samples where there is no DNA material.

This was the update I had yesterday from the AHO officer visited the site.

I am hoping for a CMI match at this moment in time with the current samples being tested!

Thanks

Regards

<Redacted>

From: Blissitt MJ (Martyn) <[Redacted](#)>

Sent: 16 October 2018 10:48

To: <Redacted>

Cc: <Redacted>

Subject: RE: Scotland BSE Suspect - Weybridge testing schedule

<Redacted> – Many thanks for your prompt and informative response - much appreciated.

A further complication would arise if we don't get a DNA match, because that would put the origin and provenance of the suspect in doubt and negate the epidemiological enquiry. If that happens we would probably be obliged to send you the remaining 23 ears from the suspects consignment. If that produced no matches then we do have 46 hide samples available from the suspects consignment that have all been sampled as a contingency. We could probably not act on any positive results without a confident DNA story in place. It is unfortunate that 23 ears from the consignment of 46 cattle were inadvertently destroyed.....

SG colleagues to note.

MB

Dr Martyn Blissitt

Veterinary Adviser (Notifiable Diseases),
Animal Health and Welfare Division,
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate,
Scottish Government,
Saughton House,
Broomhouse Drive,
Edinburgh EH11 3XD,

From: <Redacted>

Sent: 16 October 2018 10:38

To: <Redacted>

Cc: <Redacted>

Subject: RE: Scotland BSE Suspect - Weybridge testing schedule

Hi Martyn

Please see my comments below – I am not the best person for providing fast-tracked timelines but <Redacted> will be able to give you a better picture.

Hope this helps

Thanks

Regards

<Redacted>

From: Blissitt MJ (Martyn)<Redacted>

Sent: 16 October 2018 10:13

To: <Redacted>

Cc: <Redacted>

Subject: Scotland BSE Suspect - Weybridge testing schedule

<Redacted> –

Just back in the Office and catching up. I thought it prudent to seek a reminder about the various tests underway – to ensure that I have a proper understanding and an up to date picture. If you are not the most appropriate immediate contact please say.

DNA Matching (CMI):

We have a brainstem sample which we are endeavouring to DNA match with a hide sample and a blood sample - are all supposed to be from the suspect (Yes). The blood sample from the BSE suspect was tracked as arriving at Weybridge at 0825 on Friday 12 Oct 18, and I think that the other samples also arrived last week (received on 11/10/18)?

Hide and blood samples have arrived. The DNA extraction was conducted yesterday and PCR, sequencing will follow in the next few days.

Could you let me know the timelines for the likely DNA matching results? If all works well, I think end of this week or earlier is a possibility.

Western Blot and IHC confirmatory testing of Suspect BSE brainstem

You kindly advised that 10-15 working days is the prescribed timeline, but that fast tracking may be able to provide initial results by the end of the week? Grateful also if I have understood this correctly. Hope all going to plan.

Again I believe mWB is likely to get us a result by mid or late this week (provided all goes to plan) and IHC probably towards the end of the week.

In general ETA for fast-track results is likely to be late-this-week with some possibility of some results being available mid-week, this is provided no re-testing is required. mWB should tell us if its classical or atypical and the CMI should ideally give us a match between brainstem and the hide/blood sample.

Many thanks and see you next week,
Unfortunately I won't be able to attend next week's contract meeting but TS5902 update will be covered.

MB

Dr Martyn Blissitt

Veterinary Adviser (Notifiable Diseases),
Animal Health and Welfare Division,
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate,
Scottish Government,
Saughton House,
Broomhouse Drive,
Edinburgh EH11 3XD,

Email 12

From: <Redacted>
Sent: 17 October 2018 14:56
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: OFFICIAL SENSITIVE: RBSE 18/00003 - recent BSE fallen stock case

Thank you Martyn & Nick.

Very clear from my end,

Best wishes

<Redacted>

From: Blissitt MJ (Martyn) <[Redacted](#)>
Sent: 17 October 2018 14:48
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: OFFICIAL SENSITIVE: RBSE 18/00003 - recent BSE fallen stock case

<Redacted> – thanks.

Sheila Voas is the most appropriate recipient in the first instance (she will need to confirm the case based on your report) copied to Nick Ambrose, Christine Middlemiss and me. All SG Comms are nearing completion but we have everything on hold pending your written lab report. SG policy will then discuss with Ministers and after that stakeholders pending a news release. If any of this is wrong Nick can advise otherwise. SG Comms are in touch with Defra Comms.

That leaves APHA Comms who should be liaising with Defra Comms. APHA staff in Scotland should be sent the Press Release I due course, and then <Redacted> initiate the culling action for cohorts/offspring.

Thanks,
MB

Dr Martyn Blissitt
Veterinary Adviser (Notifiable Diseases),
Animal Health and Welfare Division,
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate,
Scottish Government,
Saughton House,
Broomhouse Drive,
Edinburgh EH11 3XD,

From: <Redacted>
Sent: 17 October 2018 14:28
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: OFFICIAL SENSITIVE: RBSE 18/00003 - recent BSE fallen stock case

Dear Martin

Thank you for your email. <Redacted> spoke with Sheila Voas regarding this fallen stock case a little while ago.

On the back of the conversation, APHA are in the process of preparing a report that will present the evidence base for the confirmatory test results outcome.

In the meanwhile, the DNA matching results have been completed.

I have a quick question for you – to whom would you recommend I send this summary report? At this point the reporting of this sample remains pending until we receive further instruction.

With best wishes

<Redacted>

From: Blissitt MJ (Martyn<Redacted>
Sent: 17 October 2018 09:48
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: OFFICIAL SENSITIVE: RBSE 18/00003 - recent BSE fallen stock case

Thanks all. No rush. Need to get it right.
MB

From: <Redacted>
Sent: 17 October 2018 09:45
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: Re: OFFICIAL SENSITIVE: RBSE 18/00003 - recent BSE fallen stock case

Dear Sheila

Thank you for your email. I am currently wanting to consult further with my pathologist regarding this case and also conscious that we await further test results for DNA matching. I will consult with <Redacted> regarding further developments.

Best wishes

<Redacted>

Sent from my iPhone

On 17 Oct 2018, at 09:16, Voas, Sheila <Redacted> wrote:

Hi <Redacted> many thanks

All the CVOs are together today so probably won't need to have a formal stocktake today. If after that they will reconsider as <Redacted> is 't coming to BCVA until later tomorrow. So grateful if you could let me, Martyn and <Redacted> know in advance of sharing more widely ie this copy list, or phone me.

Many thanks

Sheila

Sheila M Voas, BVM&S, MRCVS

Chief Veterinary Officer (Scotland)
Animal Health and Welfare Division,
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate,
The Scottish Government
Saughton House, Spur P, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD

<Redacted>

From: <Redacted>
Sent: 17 October 2018 08:33
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: OFFICIAL SENSITIVE: RBSE 18/00003 - recent BSE fallen stock case

Sheila

Please advise how you would like further results and if you want a discussion/stocktake
Best wishes

<Redacted>

From: <Redacted>
Sent: 16 October 2018 21:48
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: Re: OFFICIAL SENSITIVE: RBSE 18/00003 - recent BSE fallen stock case

Thank you all.

Noted by me.

Note to all in Defra and APHA that I request no information to be shared wider than this group until I am content having consulted with CVO Scotland who is lead in this case.

Thanks
<Redacted>

Sent from my iPhone

On 16 Oct 2018, at 20:48, Blissitt MJ (Martyn) "<Redacted>" wrote:

<Redacted> – Many thanks. This is clear. We await discriminatory test results and DNA matching. All results will need to be available before anybody goes public, so this needs to be kept as Official Sensitive for now. SG policy and SG Comms are in the lead..

CVO Scotland may wish to consider holding a CVO stocktake teleconference when all results are known.

Might I suggest that CVO Scotland and CVO UK are personally the first recipients of any deleterious news when all results are in? I shall try to communicate this to both tonight.

Thanks to your team for the prompt report,

MB

Dr Martyn Blissitt

Veterinary Adviser (Notifiable Diseases),
Animal Health and Welfare Division,
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate,
Scottish Government,
Saughton House,
Broomhouse Drive,
Edinburgh EH11 3XD,

From: <Redacted>APHA<Redacted>

Sent: 16 October 2018 20:30

To: <Redacted>

Cc: <Redacted>

Subject: OFFICIAL SENSITIVE: RBSE 18/00003 - recent BSE fallen stock case

Dear All

The confirmatory laboratories at APHA Weybridge have completed Western blot testing and Immunohistochemistry (IHC) for RBSE 18/00003. I have taken the decision to provide you with the following

findings resulting from our confirmatory testing investigations into this case:

- IHC testing – confirmatory output - POSITIVE for BSE
- Western Blot testing – confirmatory and discriminatory output – at this stage, the western blot results support the IHC positive result and indicate further scrutiny via Glycoform analysis was required for the western blot banding pattern observed for RBSE 18/00003. This analysis enables us to discriminate clearly between classical and atypical forms of BSE. The laboratory have undertaken this analysis this evening and the results have just been completed. We intend to consult with our pathologist tomorrow morning and present our further data, ahead of the official reporting of the outcome on this case.

Our APHA Sequencing Unit are currently working on the following:

- DNA matching – Cattle Microsatellite Identification (CMI) testing – results anticipated Late Wednesday/early Thursday this week.

This email constitutes a sit rep of testing outcomes so far for this case and will be followed by official reporting of the confirmed BSE case by the appointed APHA pathologist, once all the data for this case have been considered. As more results become available I will update you swiftly.

With very best wishes

<Redacted>

From: Blissitt MJ (Martyn<Redacted>

Sent: 16 October 2018 13:10

To: <Redacted>

Cc: <Redacted>

Subject: RE: Scotland BSE Suspect - Weybridge testing schedule

<Redacted> – Many thanks.

We are also hoping that the DNA matching tests will not prove to be an additional problem, as that could throw a spanner in the works.

SG colleagues – please note yellow text below.

MB

Dr Martyn Blissitt

Veterinary Adviser (Notifiable Diseases),
Animal Health and Welfare Division,
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate,
Scottish Government,
Saughton House,
Broomhouse Drive,
Edinburgh EH11 3XD,

Email 13

From: <Redacted>

Sent: 17 October 2018 14:59

To: <Redacted>

Cc: <Redacted>

Subject: RE: Written BSE results

Thankyou Sheila

We will do all we can to help with this

Best wishes

<Redacted>

From: Voas, Sheila

Sent: 17 October 2018 14:47

To: <Redacted>

Cc: <Redacted>

Subject: Written BSE results

HI <Redacted>

Many thanks for your phone call. Just to confirm that I have now spoken to Christine and let her know the disappointing news.

We will press the start button on actions once get written confirmation of the results for the audit trail.

Many thanks to you and all your team for hard work on this and for the prompt results. No doubt we will be talking again in the next few days.

Sheila

Sheila M Voas, BVM&S, MRCVS

Chief Veterinary Officer (Scotland)
Animal Health and Welfare Division,
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate,

The Scottish Government
Saughton House, Spur P, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD

<Redacted>

Email 14

From: Blissitt MJ (Martyn) <Redacted>
Sent: 17 October 2018 15:55
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: FW: OFFICIAL SENSITIVE RBSE2018/00003 BSE01

<Redacted> – Great, thanks. And thanks to <Redacted> for her informative report. Grateful also if you could send me the latest iteration of the epi-report, as discussed.

MB

Dr Martyn Blissitt

Veterinary Adviser (Notifiable Diseases),
Animal Health and Welfare Division,
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate,
Scottish Government,
Saughton House,
Broomhouse Drive,
Edinburgh EH11 3XD,

From: <Redacted>
Sent: 17 October 2018 15:52
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: Re: OFFICIAL SENSITIVE RBSE2018/00003 BSE01

The 2016 calf was born more than 2 years before the index case was identified so not part of the offspring cull
The herd moved to Aberdeenshire on the twelfth of December 2012 The index case was in utero during that move and was born on the Aberdeenshire holding in the spring of 2013.

Regards <Redacted>

Sent from my iPhone

On 17 Oct 2018, at 15:35, Blissitt MJ (Martyn<Redacted> wrote:

<Redacted> – Two urgent retrospective queries please;

- What happened to the 2016 calf of the suspect – Question 12a - suspect's date of entry into the adult herd?
- When did the herd move from <Redacted>?

Apologies if I have missed this in the BSE1 form.

Thanks,

MB

Dr Martyn Blissitt

Veterinary Adviser (Notifiable Diseases),
Animal Health and Welfare Division,
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate,
Scottish Government,
Saughton House,
Broomhouse Drive,
Edinburgh EH11 3XD,

From: <Redacted>(APHA)<Redacted>
Sent: 11 October 2018 16:19
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: OFFICIAL SENSITIVE RBSE2018/00003 BSE01
Importance: High

All,
Please find attached BSE01 report.
APHA colleagues - this is the same version as sharepoint.
Many thanks to <Redacted> for this.
<Redacted>

Your message is ready to be sent with the following file or link attachments:

BSE01 Boghead

Email 15 (See Attachment 1)

From: <Redacted>(APHA) <Redacted>
Sent: 17 October 2018 17:18
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted> <Redacted>
Subject: FW: PG0203_18

Hello Sheila

As discussed earlier- please see the attached report
I am sending this now- but we need to add in the tissue matching result- which has come through and is a match as we discussed. This will be added in the morning and forwarded to you.

If you need anything further- please do ask

Best wishes

<Redacted>

From: <Redacted>(APHA)
Sent: 17 October 2018 16:58
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: PG0203_18

Dear <Redacted>

Please find attached the requested report regarding the referral from Scotland.

Please feel free to forward if you are in agreement.

If you have any queries or require additional information please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you.

<Redacted>

Email 16

From: Voas S (Sheila) <Redacted>
Sent: 17 October 2018 17:32
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: Re: PG0203_18

Thanks again <Redacted>. We have decided that we won't go public with this until tomorrow so it would be good to get the tissue DNA correlation early tomorrow if at all possible. Thank you.
Sheila.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: <Redacted>
Sent: Wednesday, 17 October 2018 17:18
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: FW: PG0203_18

Hello Sheila

As discussed earlier- please see the attached report

I am sending this now- but we need to add in the tissue matching result- which has come through and is a match as we discussed. This will be added in the morning and forwarded to you.

If you need anything further- please do ask

Best wishes

<Redacted>

From: <Redacted>

Sent: 17 October 2018 16:58

To: <Redacted>

Cc: <Redacted>

Subject: PG0203_18

Dear <Redacted>

Please find attached the requested report regarding the referral from Scotland.

Please feel free to forward if you are in agreement.

If you have any queries or require additional information please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you.

<Redacted>

Email 17

1. Draft formal submission to include Health FSS DFM FM and all copied into original submission to make sure those who need to know results do. This needs to be sent early tomorrow - by 9.30 at the very latest I would suggest . Same info to Apha.
2. Answer inspired PQ coming from kate
3. Stakeholder telecom 10am - arrange and invite key St holders
4. Share timings with other CVOs and defra and APHA.
5. Share embargoed news release as above
6. Q and A on the Web at same time as press release.
7. Email to all Are staff to draw to their attention
8. Social media - take lead from comms ree on what to put out.
9. Ms G to alert MP and MSP tomorrow. I'm calling her tonight when off train to update .
9. Defra Ministers. I wi check tonight if Ms G wants to. contact Lord G tomorrow or is content for CVO UK to tell him. Will assume others CVOs will tell Ministers.
10. Confirm Defra Cvo will tell EU and OIE on our behalf - I will sign letter if required but usually UKG function.

Have I missed anything?

<Redacted> will call me once farmer been notified.

Suggest if poss we AHW staff aim to be in about 7am tomorrow to do the above.

Sheila

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

Email 18

Luke,

I've asked <Redacted> to sort out. Nobody is guaranteeing NO risk but atypical is generally considered sporadic and unimportant - though we still take precautionary action.

But in any case this is classical so they need to reflect that and that controls are and we're in place I think in this case there are 3 cohorts and 1 offspring to consider - and cull.

Sheila

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: Boddice L (Luke)
Sent: Wednesday, 17 October 2018 18:19
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - DEFRA update

Just had this back from defra following my request earlier for then to rethink the final two para. Seems they have a different opinion

"We've had more info from our policy teams today who say the evidence is clear that we cannot rule out the possibility of a risk to human health from both classical and atypical BSE. It may be that there is some divergence of opinion within industry on this, but one to think about if / when we're both finalising messaging.

"On culling, we're told that EU regulations takes a precautionary approach for both classical and atypical BSE – meaning that with either type all cohorts and offspring would have to be killed. I'm not sure of the numbers at this particular farm – do you know?"

Sent with BlackBerry Work (www.blackberry.com)

From: "Voas S (Sheila)" <<Redacted>
Sent: 17 Oct 2018 12:01
To: "<Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - DEFRA update

So Chinese whispers indeed

A salient less on for us all

Sheila M Voas, BVM&S, MRCVS
Chief Veterinary Officer (Scotland)
Animal Health and Welfare Division,

Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate,
The Scottish Government
Saughton House, Spur P, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD
<Redacted>



From: Boddice L (Luke)
Sent: 17 October 2018 11:57
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - DEFRA update

It was <Redacted> one of their comms people. Was coming in following her having a chat with Scott Walker.

From: Ambrose N (Nick) Dr
Sent: 17 October 2018 11:54
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - DEFRA update

I had a call from Scott Walker this morning and relayed the same information that you told <Redacted> He said he would put comms in touch, but no more than that.

Nick

From: Voas S (Sheila)
Sent: 17 October 2018 11:52
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - DEFRA update

Who did you speak to in NFUS? <Redacted> was given heads up yesterday that we were investigating a suspect and that we should know more later this week or next. Chinese whispers.

Sheila M Voas, BVM&S, MRCVS
Chief Veterinary Officer (Scotland)
Animal Health and Welfare Division,
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate,
The Scottish Government
Saughton House, Spur P, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD
<Redacted>



From: Boddice L (Luke)
Sent: 17 October 2018 11:47
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - DEFRA update

Just had a call from NFUS asking about when we are going public on the BSE case. I've said we are waiting final test results before going live and won't be saying anything proactively until those results come in – likely to be over the weekend/early next week. They have agreed to remain silent until then as well.

From: Voas S (Sheila)
Sent: 17 October 2018 10:18
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - DEFRA update

Yes Kate I would prefer that Defra were less involved but APHA have been reporting to them too. But its not wrong that they are preparing as they will report to OIE for us as international relationships are reserved.

I have discussed reporting lines and rest assured we have been assured that we will be informed of results in advance of anyone else. This has been reiterated by CVO for Defra.

As regards the human health implications I think this is simply a mistake as the press release has been written by a non expert – which is why we are trying to make sure that it is corrected. It is almost impossible to prove a negative but the wording should reflect that atypical has never had any human health consequences rather than being ultra precautionary. The Lines from FSS should also help with our message..

Happy to discuss further as required

Sheila
Sheila M Voas, BVM&S, MRCVS
Chief Veterinary Officer (Scotland)
Animal Health and Welfare Division,
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate,
The Scottish Government
Saughton House, Spur P, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD
<Redacted>



From: Higgins K (Kate)
Sent: 17 October 2018 10:06
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - DEFRA update

I'm a bit discomfited a) that DEFRA advice on human health appears to diverge from where we were
b) that Defra are this involved at this stage at all

Luke and I going to have a chat and we'll come back

Kate Higgins
Special Advisor to the First Minister
Rural Economy and Connectivity
<Redacted>

Scottish Government
St Andrew's House, 2 Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG
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From: Voas S (Sheila)
Sent: 17 October 2018 09:27
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - DEFRA update

OK Let me know if you need me to do anything.

Sheila M Voas, BVM&S, MRCVS
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<Redacted>



From: Boddice L (Luke)
Sent: 17 October 2018 08:49
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - DEFRA update

Yes, I will go back to DEFRA

From: Ambrose N (Nick) Dr
Sent: 16 October 2018 17:24
To: <Redacted> <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: Re: BSE - DEFRA update

Luke,

You have the answer to your question in the email from Martyn at 16.46, and a comment from Sheila that the last paragraphs of the note need redrafting. Can we leave it to you to feedback please?

Nick

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: Boddice L (Luke)
Sent: Tuesday, 16 October 2018 15:35
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - DEFRA update

Now with DEFRA ministerial briefing

From: Boddice L (Luke)
Sent: 16 October 2018 15:33
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: BSE - DEFRA update

Nick/Sheila,

Had a quick chat with DEFRA comms around joined up comms. They have confirmed that if it is classical BSE, their ministers are likely to want to do something in HoC. I've said that's fine, as long as it's post us. They again agreed that they are happy for SG to take the lead.

With regards to the signed off release, can you approach FSS/APHA for supportive quotes – no longer than 100 words?

I've also asked Julie Dick (cc'd) to pull together a one page stakeholder comms strategy, to ensure messaging hits key targets.

Can I just double check, does atypical and/or classical have a risk to human health? I'm assuming it does, but because this case was caught before entering the food system, there is no risk on this occasion.

DEFRA has also agreed to share some briefing they gave to their ministers. I'll forward as and when it comes in. I've not made the same commitment.

Luke

Luke Boddice | Comms Greener

Scottish Government, St Andrew's House

<Redacted>

Email 19

<Redacted>

Cc Luke and Martyn, Unless I'm missing something significant (and Martyn confirmed this with Weybridge yesterday) the reason we don't lose status for atypical cases is that they are not considered significant human risk. Which is slightly at odds with what your comms team are hearing. Can you confirm that is your understanding too. And if so tell them so we can agree comms please.

Sheila

Sheila

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: Boddice L (Luke) <Redacted>

Sent: Wednesday, 17 October 2018 18:19

To: <Redacted>

Cc: <Redacted>

Subject: RE: BSE - DEFRA update

Just had this back from defra following my request earlier for them to rethink the final two para. Seems they have a different opinion

"We've had more info from our policy teams today who say the evidence is clear that we cannot rule out the possibility of a risk to human health from both classical and atypical BSE. It may be that there is some divergence of opinion within industry on this, but one to think about if / when we're both finalising messaging.

"On culling, we're told that EU regulations takes a precautionary approach for both classical and

atypical BSE – meaning that with either type all cohorts and offspring would have to be killed. I'm not sure of the numbers at this particular farm – do you know?"

Sent with BlackBerry Work (www.blackberry.com)

From: "Voas S (Sheila)" <Redacted>
Sent: 17 Oct 2018 12:01
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - DEFRA update

So Chinese whispers indeed

A salient less on for us all

Sheila M Voas, BVM&S, MRCVS
Chief Veterinary Officer (Scotland)
Animal Health and Welfare Division,
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate,
The Scottish Government
Saughton House, Spur P, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD
<Redacted>



From: Boddice L (Luke)
Sent: 17 October 2018 11:57
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - DEFRA update

It was <Redacted> one of their comms people. Was coming in following her having a chat with Scott Walker.

From: Ambrose N (Nick) Dr
Sent: 17 October 2018 11:54
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - DEFRA update

I had a call from Scott Walker this morning and relayed the same information that you told <Redacted>. He said he would put comms in touch, but no more than that.

Nick

From: Voas S (Sheila)
Sent: 17 October 2018 11:52
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - DEFRA update

Who did you speak to in NFUS? <Redacted> was given heads up yesterday that we were investigating a suspect and that we should know more later this week or next. Chinese whispers.

Sheila M Voas, BVM&S, MRCVS

Chief Veterinary Officer (Scotland)
Animal Health and Welfare Division,
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate,
The Scottish Government
Saughton House, Spur P, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD
<Redacted>



From: Boddice L (Luke)
Sent: 17 October 2018 11:47
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - DEFRA update

Just had a call from NFUS asking about when we are going public on the BSE case. I've said we are waiting final test results before going live and won't be saying anything proactively until those results come in – likely to be over the weekend/early next week. They have agreed to remain silent until then as well.

From: Voas S (Sheila)
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Subject: RE: BSE - DEFRA update

Yes Kate I would prefer that Defra were less involved but APHA have been reporting to them too. But its not wrong that they are preparing as they will report to OIE for us as international relationships are reserved.

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Special Advisor to the First Minister

Rural Economy and Connectivity

<Redacted>

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Sent: 17 October 2018 09:27

To: <Redacted>

Cc: <Redacted>

Subject: RE: BSE - DEFRA update

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Luke

Luke Boddice | Comms Greener
Scottish Government, St Andrew's House
<Redacted>

Email 20

Sorry Kate just seen easier message - are you content we just update FM and DFM early tomorrow? For information APHA colleagues have just told me that the farmer concerned is "burying his mother" so am trying to clarify when we can tell him the results.

It never rains..... poor man.

S

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: Voas S (Sheila)
Sent: Wednesday, 17 October 2018 18:10
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: Re: BSE - positive test results

Thanks Kate all fine by me.

What we had been planning was to convene a stakeholder teleconference tomorrow about 10am assuming release at 10.30 or 11am, including NFUS (I gave <Redacted> the heads up about a suspect already so they could consider their own comms etc) so they all heard the same thing at the same time from me but if you prefer individual calls we can change that.

My team are all out of Saughton as there is a problem I. The boiler room that has set off the fire alarm and taken power out from West of Edinburgh so I may put a few headlines to FM and DFM from BlackBerry in advance of full update later / First thing tomorrow.

Colleagues in Defra Cvo) have offered to alert Lord Gardiner tomorrow to fit in with our timescales but happy for it to be Minister or Cab Sec if they wish. I just thought as on holiday they may prefer it to be at official level and more technical.

Are comms are looking at social media coverage and the Q and A for the website just needs cleared and added once colleagues can get back into laptops.

I sincerely hope we don't need a helpline. It shouldn't be the big deal but will depend on the press coverage.

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Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: Higgins K (Kate)
Sent: Wednesday, 17 October 2018 16:52
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

All

It is vital that we get a succinct update to FM and DfM this evening – Nick and I have discussed, no need to run this past spads before sending up.

We have all discussed and – I think – agreed that releasing this unwelcome news in an orderly way is preferable to it going out after hours this evening – that allows everyone who needs to be contacted and advised before the media release to be so.

So – and please add if I've missed anything or anyone from suggested initial handling.

Comms advice is that the latest we should think about releasing the news tomorrow would be 11am. Preference at this stage is for Sheila as CVO to be spokesperson for any interview – hope that is ok with you Sheila! This to be reviewed as things develop (or not)

That would give us time to do parliamentary handling. Suggestion is that we seek dispensation to get a GIQ asked and answered on the same day. I will draft something to start off this evening and circulate. The GIQ answer should make clear our offer to provide additional info to Parliament next week as and when appropriate ie a topical question to act as a mini statement or a statement

Also suggested that Ms Gougeon put in calls to the local MSP and MP around 10am tomorrow morning and also writes to the REC committee to coincide with the GIQ. Who are the relevant Ministers in UKG and elsewhere? Is it appropriate for either Ms Gougeon or Mr Ewing to contact them tomorrow morning to provide an update or will the respective CVOs do that? My instinct is the former is more respectful?

Once release issues, can we have some social media messages for issue from Greener account – do we need someone to be actively engaging through that account with people who get in touch (with relevant concerns etc)? Can these be circulated so we can arrange for them to issue from personal accounts with minimal tweaking. It might be a useful rule of thumb for the next wee while for all tweeters and Fbers to take their lead from official Greener Scotland messaging ie wait until you see something official coming out before adding a message.

Anything I've missed?

Kate Higgins
Special Advisor to the First Minister
Rural Economy and Connectivity
<Redacted>

From: Veitch K (Kevin) **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy
Sent: 17 October 2018 16:01
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

I'll defer to Kate on the urgency of updating FM and DFM, although I expect that will be a priority.

51

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From: Voas S (Sheila)
Sent: 17 October 2018 15:16
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Thanks Kevin,

Sam in my team has already worked up a Q and A which is with comms and ready to be put on website when we go live with the news release.

We AHWD are planning a stakeholder telecom to ensure key players are aware. Once we have written results I would propose a more formal submission of them to include recipients of the original submission plus FM, DFM, Health, FSS etc.

We will also work up a SCANCE note as suggested for next weeks meeting.

Can you confirm that this is acceptable to Cab Sec and that we should put our existing plans in action once written results received or if he wants to discuss further first.

Sheila M Voas, BVM&S, MRCVS
Chief Veterinary Officer (Scotland)
Animal Health and Welfare Division,
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate,
The Scottish Government
Saughton House, Spur P, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD
<Redacted>



From: Veitch K (Kevin) **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy
Sent: 17 October 2018 15:08
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Sheila

Mr Ewing has noted this disappointing news.

He thinks that many questions will obviously be asked and ask that Q&A will need to be worked up. He also wants to consider stakeholder engagement and providing an update to FM and DFM.

We will also need a SCANCE note for Cabinet on Tuesday.

Kind regards
Kevin Veitch
Private Secretary
Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy
2N.11
St Andrews House



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From: Voas S (Sheila)
Sent: 17 October 2018 14:38
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Although we have emailed Cab Sec and the Minister both are on leave this week so suggest that we also await confirmation from Private Office that they are content before release it. However still waiting written lab confirmation of the results.

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Chief Veterinary Officer (Scotland)
Animal Health and Welfare Division,
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate,
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Saughton House, Spur P, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD
<Redacted>



From: Boddice L (Luke)
Sent: 17 October 2018 14:32
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Copy of the release below amended to reflect classical. I will hold off issuing until Sheila has written confirmation.

Chasing FSS for the quote just now

BSE

Disease confirmed in Aberdeenshire

A case of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) has been confirmed on a farm in Aberdeenshire.

In line with the disease prevention response plan, precautionary movement restrictions have now been put in place at the farm, while further investigations to identify the origin of the disease occur.

This is standard procedure for a confirmed case of Classical BSE, which does not represent a threat to human health.

Rural Economy Secretary Fergus Ewing said:

“Following confirmation of a case of classical BSE in Aberdeenshire, I have activated the Scottish Government’s response plan to protect our valuable farming industry, including establishing a precautionary movement ban being placed on the farm.

“While it is important to stress that this is standard procedure until we have a clear understanding of the diseases origin, this is further proof that our surveillance system for detecting this type of disease is working. Be assured that the Scottish Government and its partners stand ready to respond to any further confirmed cases of the disease in Scotland.”

Chief Veterinary Officer Sheila Voas said:

“While it is too early to tell where the disease came from in this case, its detection is proof that our surveillance system is doing its job. We are working closely with the Animal and Plant Health Agency to answer this question, and in the meantime, I would urge any farmer who has concerns to immediately seek veterinary advice.

INSERT QUOTE FROM FSS STRESSING EXPERT ADVICE IS NO RISK TO HUMAN HEALTH OR FOOD CHAIN

Background

The Animal Health Agency (APHA) is investigating the source of the outbreak.

The case was identified as a result of strict control measures we have in place. It did not enter the human food chain and Food Standards Scotland have confirmed there is no risk to human health as a result of this isolated case.

All animals over four years of age that die on farm are routinely tested for BSE under our comprehensive surveillance system. Whilst the disease is not directly transmitted from animal to animal, its cohorts, including offspring, have been traced and isolated, and will be destroyed in line with EU requirements.

In addition to the measures we have in place for fallen stock and animal feed, there is a strict control regime to protect consumers. This includes the removal of specified risk material such as the spinal column, brain and skull from carcasses.

From: Waite S (Sheelagh) **On Behalf Of** Voas S (Sheila)

Sent: 17 October 2018 14:26

To: <Redacted>

Cc: <Redacted>

Subject: BSE - positive test results

Importance: High

All,

I have just received telephone notification from the TSE national reference laboratory at Weybridge that our suspect BSE in a 5 year old cow from Aberdeenshire has given positive test results for classical BSE. This is disappointing but we are not unique - both France and Ireland lost their statuses soon after getting them. I have been discussing with Comms colleagues and we are ready to go with communications however I would prefer to wait until I have written confirmation of the results. This should happen within the next hour or so. I am happy to discuss with anyone who wishes more information but I am in London so would need a little bit of notice.

Sheila M Voas, BVM&S, MRCVS, ARAgS

Chief Veterinary Officer (Scotland)

Animal Health and Welfare Division,

Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate,

The Scottish Government

Saughton House, Spur P, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD

<Redacted>

Email 21

Oh no what rotten timing for him. Can you let me know once he has been contacted. Tonight may be better than tomorrow morning if the funeral is tomorrow?

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: <Redacted>

Sent: Wednesday, 17 October 2018 18:10

To: <Redacted>

Cc: <Redacted>

Subject: Re: BSE results.

Got that. Will action. I think farmer is burying his mother but will try and contact him.

Sent from my iPhone. I apologise for any typos.

On 17 Oct 2018, at 18:06, <Redacted> wrote:

Thanks Sheila

This is not the result we wanted.

The identity tests are all positive. APHA Scotland are all geared up to go ahead with the next steps.

Please let us know anything else you need doing

Kind regards
<Redacted>

From: Voas, Sheila
Sent: 17 October 2018 17:43
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: BSE results.

Peter, Mick
<Redacted>

The lab have informed me that this sample has tested positive for classical BSE and so SG are preparing to go public with the information tomorrow. Comms here have been / will continue to be in discussion with Defra and APHA comms about precise timing and choreography about what we all say and when, and Christine and Defra TSE Team are aware. Grateful if you would NOT share this information further for now.

However grateful for confirmation that you will be able to inform the farmer early tomorrow morning as we would not want him to find out by means of a press release. Obviously whoever speaks to him will need to know!!!

Sheila

Email 22

Thanks Kate all fine by me.

What we had been planning was to convene a stakeholder teleconference tomorrow about 10am assuming release at 10.30 or 11am, including NFUS (I gave <Redacted> the heads up about a suspect already so they could consider their own comms etc) so they all heard the same thing at the same time from me but if you prefer individual calls we can change that.

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Stakeholders – a list to be drawn up and divided up among appropriate senior officials for calls and emails to be sent just ahead of media release going out. Either Ms Gougeon or Mr Ewing to contact <Redacted>.

Once release issues, can we have some social media messages for issue from Greener account – do we need someone to be actively engaging through that account with people who get in touch (with relevant concerns etc)? Can these be circulated so we can arrange for them to issue from personal accounts with minimal tweaking. It might be a useful rule of thumb for the next wee while for all tweeters and Fbers to take their lead from official Greener Scotland messaging ie wait until you see something official coming out before adding a message.

Can we make sure we have webpage links set up for people to find more info? Do we need a helpline set up? (or at least thinking about that....)

Anything I've missed?

Kate

Kate Higgins


Special Advisor to the First Minister
Rural Economy and Connectivity
<Redacted>

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Sent: 17 October 2018 14:26

To: <Redacted>

Cc: <Redacted>

Subject: BSE - positive test results

Importance: High

All,

I have just received telephone notification from the TSE national reference laboratory at Weybridge that our suspect BSE in a 5 year old cow from Aberdeenshire has given positive test results for classical BSE. This is disappointing but we are not unique - both France and Ireland lost their statuses soon after getting them. I have been discussing with Comms colleagues and we are ready to go with communications however I would prefer to wait until I have written confirmation of the results. This should happen within the next hour or so. I am happy to discuss with anyone who wishes more information but I am in London so would need a little bit of notice.

Sheila M Voas, BVM&S, MRCVS, ARAgS

Chief Veterinary Officer (Scotland)

Animal Health and Welfare Division,

Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate,

The Scottish Government
Saughton House, Spur P, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD
<Redacted>

Email 23

OK. Can you go home rather than hang about waiting? I could do a very brief update for FM and DFM by BlackBerry tonight and we can do the rest early in the morning?

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: Ambrose N (Nick) Dr
Sent: Wednesday, 17 October 2018 17:35
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: Re: BSE - positive test results

We have a fire alarm at saughton House. 30 mins outside so far, may be sometime yet. We have been told possibly an hour so the update will be late.
Nick

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: Voas S (Sheila)
Sent: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: Re: BSE - positive test results

I'm now on a train back to edinburgh so not ideal to talk. As we don't plan to release until morning now perhaps we could do either after back in edinburgh (10pm) or tomorrow am.

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To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: Re: BSE - positive test results

Yes, Ms Gougeon will call you when she's got a signal

Mariella
<Redacted>

From: Voas S (Sheila)
Sent: Wednesday, 17 October 2018 15:22
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

That's fine. I'm in London but will probably head back on train early evening on comms advice rather than go on to BCVA so will

Be able to take calls for a while. Is Ms G happy to call me?

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Subject: Re: BSE - positive test results

Sheila

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Thanks

Mariella

<Redacted>

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Sent: Wednesday, 17 October 2018 15:15

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Cc: <Redacted>

Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

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<Redacted>



From: Veitch K (Kevin) **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy
Sent: 17 October 2018 15:08
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

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From: Boddice L (Luke)
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Saughton House, Spur P, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD

<Redacted>

Email 24

<Redacted>

The lab have informed me that this sample has tested positive for classical BSE and so SG are preparing to go public with the information tomorrow. Comms here have been / will continue to be in discussion with Defra and APHA comms about precise timing and choreography about what we all say and when, and Christine and Defra TSE Team are aware. Grateful if you would NOT share this information further for now.

However grateful for confirmation that you will be able to inform the farmer early tomorrow morning as we would not want him to find out by means of a press release. Obviously whoever speaks to him will need to know!!!

Sheila

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

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Cc: <Redacted>
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Animal Health and Welfare Division,

Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate,

The Scottish Government

Saughton House, Spur P, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD

<Redacted>

Email 26

Yes it's for APHA to tell farmer but I haven't told them yet as no written confirmation.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: Ambrose N (Nick) Dr

Sent: Wednesday, 17 October 2018 16:33
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Yes. Just Finished talking to Kate.

She advises for better timing, availability of interviewees, freshness of staff, readiness of material it would be better to wait until tomorrow. I can see the point and agree if you are both content that there are no/limited risks.

Kate also suggests an inspired PQ tomorrow, at the same time as the PR.

Martyn/Sheila – kate, also wanted assurance that the farmer and family are informed and will not see this on the news/twitter – Is this a role for APHA as soon as we have written report from Weybridge.

Nick

From: Voas S (Sheila)
Sent: 17 October 2018 16:19
To: <Redacted>
Subject: Re: BSE - positive test results

Happy to wait till tomorrow.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: Boddice L (Luke)
Sent: Wednesday, 17 October 2018 15:32
To: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Has Kate spoken to you? She was wondering down the phone to me about holding any announcement until tomorrow

From: Ambrose N (Nick) Dr
Sent: 17 October 2018 15:31
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

We talked about it the draft with CommsARE. Ian and I are looking at it just now.
N

From: Voas S (Sheila)
Sent: 17 October 2018 15:21
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Maybe still with Nick for checking then?

Sheila M Voas, BVM&S, MRCVS

Chief Veterinary Officer (Scotland)
Animal Health and Welfare Division,
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Saughton House, Spur P, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD
<Redacted>



From: Boddice L (Luke)
Sent: 17 October 2018 15:19
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Comms not seen the Q&A, unless you mean CommsARE

From: Voas S (Sheila)
Sent: 17 October 2018 15:16
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

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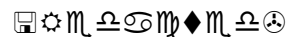
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<Redacted>

Email 27

OK I'm now on train heading home. Happy for update to go but as yet we still don't have written results so should be caveatted as such.

Sheila

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: Higgins K (Kate)
Sent: Wednesday, 17 October 2018 16:52
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

All

It is vital that we get a succinct update to FM and DfM this evening – Nick and I have discussed, no need to run this past spads before sending up.

We have all discussed and – I think – agreed that releasing this unwelcome news in an orderly way is preferable to it going out after hours this evening – that allows everyone who needs to be contacted and advised before the media release to be so.

So – and please add if I've missed anything or anyone from suggested initial handling.

Comms advice is that the latest we should think about releasing the news tomorrow would be 11am. Preference at this stage is for Sheila as CVO to be spokesperson for any interview – hope that is ok with you Sheila! This to be reviewed as things develop (or not)

That would give us time to do parliamentary handling. Suggestion is that we seek dispensation to get a GIQ asked and answered on the same day. I will draft something to start off this evening and circulate. The GIQ answer should make clear our offer to provide additional info to Parliament next week as and when appropriate ie a topical question to act as a mini statement or a statement

Also suggested that Ms Gougeon put in calls to the local MSP and MP around 10am tomorrow morning and also writes to the REC committee to coincide with the GIQ. Who are the relevant Ministers in UKG and elsewhere? Is it appropriate for either Ms Gougeon or Mr Ewing to contact them tomorrow morning to provide an update or will the respective CVOs do that? My instinct is the former is more respectful?

Stakeholders – a list to be drawn up and divided up among appropriate senior officials for calls and emails to be sent just ahead of media release going out. Either Ms Gougeon or Mr Ewing to contact <Redacted>

Once release issues, can we have some social media messages for issue from Greener account – do we need someone to be actively engaging through that account with people who get in touch (with relevant concerns etc)? Can these be circulated so we can arrange for them to issue from personal accounts with minimal tweaking. It might be a useful rule of thumb for the next wee while for all tweeters and FBers to take their lead from official Greener Scotland messaging ie wait until you see something official coming out before adding a message.

Can we make sure we have webpage links set up for people to find more info? Do we need a helpline set up? (or at least thinking about that....)

Anything I've missed?

Kate

Kate Higgins
Special Advisor to the First Minister
Rural Economy and Connectivity
<Redacted>

Scottish Government
St Andrew's House, 2 Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG
Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary to the Scottish Government are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot.

From: Veitch K (Kevin) **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy
Sent: 17 October 2018 16:01
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Sheila, agreed.

I'll defer to Kate on the urgency of updating FM and DFM, although I expect that will be a priority.

Thanks
Kevin Veitch
Private Secretary
Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy
2N.11
St Andrews House



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From: Voas S (Sheila)
Sent: 17 October 2018 15:16
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

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Can you confirm that this is acceptable to Cab Sec and that we should put our existing plans in action once written results received or if he wants to discuss further first.

Sheila M Voas, BVM&S, MRCVS

Chief Veterinary Officer (Scotland)
Animal Health and Welfare Division,
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate,
The Scottish Government
Saughton House, Spur P, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD
<Redacted>



From: Veitch K (Kevin) **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy

Sent: 17 October 2018 15:08

To: <Redacted>

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Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

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He thinks that many questions will obviously be asked and ask that Q&A will need to be worked up. He also wants to consider stakeholder engagement and providing an update to FM and DFM.

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Kind regards

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From: Boddice L (Luke)
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Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

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From: Waite S (Sheelagh) **On Behalf Of** Voas S (Sheila)

Sent: 17 October 2018 14:26

To: <Redacted>

Cc: <Redacted>

Subject: BSE - positive test results

Importance: High

All,

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The Scottish Government
Saughton House, Spur P, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD
<Redacted>

Email 28

Hope she hasn't changed plans on our account. I'm heading to Kings Cross so will be back in the for it to go out tomorrow!

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: Conlan F (Frances)
Sent: Wednesday, 17 October 2018 16:18
To: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Sheila

I know that you have been in touch with Elinor, as have I. She is flying back today.

Thanks

Frances Conlan
Head of Strategic and People Support
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate
<Redacted>

From: Voas S (Sheila)
Sent: 17 October 2018 15:16
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Ok I will try to organise train for this evening.

Sheila

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From: Boddice L (Luke)
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Animal Health and Welfare Division,
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<Redacted>



From: Boddice L (Luke)
Sent: 17 October 2018 14:52
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Sheila,

Can I just check your location/availability etc. As agreed previously, you were to front any initial bid requests.

Thanks
Luke

From: Boddice L (Luke)
Sent: 17 October 2018 14:43
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Thanks Nick. Will make sure your amended version issues.

I've just spoken to FSS about their line. They are chasing at their end.

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Cc: <Redacted>
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The Scottish Government
Saughton House, Spur P, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD
<Redacted>

Email 29

I'm happy to wait.till.tomorrow - and no written confirmation from lab yet. Just didn't want.to be seen to be delaying and risk SG criticism if that was possible.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: Higgins K (Kate)
Sent: Wednesday, 17 October 2018 15:29
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Sorry.... But I feel a whole lot safer dealing with this with you close by (pathetic as that sounds!!)

Nick can you give me a call please when you are free –just about timing of releases etc

Kate Higgins
Special Advisor to the First Minister
Rural Economy and Connectivity
<Redacted>

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Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate,

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<Redacted>

Email 30

Lab phoned me – not the result we would have wanted – waiting for written confirmation then will be circulated more widely.

Sheila M Voas, BVM&S, MRCVS

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Animal Health and Welfare Division,

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<Redacted>



Email 31

Move from <Redacted> reported previously as 12/12/12

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Email 32

Thanks Martyn

Sheila M Voas, BVM&S, MRCVS

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The Scottish Government
Saughton House, Spur P, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD

<Redacted>



From: Blissitt MJ (Martyn)
Sent: 17 October 2018 15:17
To: <Redacted>
Subject: BSE Case - Summary facts

Sheila – From BSE1 form:

- <Redacted>, Aberdeenshire;
- Herd of 22 <Redacted>
- Suspect – <Redacted> cow – homebred, only eaten mothers milk, grass, haylage;
- 2 Offspring (2017 and 2018) – 1 (2017 steer) slaughtered 28/9/18, one (2018 – 6 months heifer) alive on holding;
- 3 in cohort – all 5 year old cows and on the farm;
- Suspect well until 30/9/2018 showing hypomagnesaemia signs, Treated and partial recovery but fell into a watercourse 2/10/2018 and farmer decided to cull – dead by the time knackery arrived;

Herd originated in <Redacted>

Chasing two further queries - ? 2016 calf and when moved from <Redacted>

MB

Dr Martyn Blissitt

Veterinary Adviser (Notifiable Diseases),
Animal Health and Welfare Division,
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate,
Scottish Government,
Saughton House,
Broomhouse Drive,
Edinburgh EH11 3XD,

Email 33

That's fine. I'm in London but will probably head back on train early evening on comms advice rather than go on to BCVA so will

Be able to take calls for a while. Is Ms G happy to call me?

Sheila M Voas, BVM&S, MRCVS

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Animal Health and Welfare Division,
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Saughton House, Spur P, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD

<Redacted>

<Redacted>



From: Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment
Sent: 17 October 2018 15:19
To: <Redacted>
Subject: Re: BSE - positive test results

Sheila

Ms Gougeon has noted the update and would welcome a call with you. Her signal is patchy at the moment so it may be a while before she's able to call.

Thanks

Mariella
<Redacted>

From: Voas S (Sheila)
Sent: Wednesday, 17 October 2018 15:15
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<Redacted>

<Redacted>

Email 34

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Chief Veterinary Officer (Scotland)
Animal Health and Welfare Division,
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Saughton House, Spur P, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD

<Redacted>



Sent: 17 October 2018 15:08

<Redacted>

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Kind regards

Private Secretary

2N.11

[illegible]

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Sent: 17 October 2018 14:26

To: <Redacted>

Subject: BSE - positive test results

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<Redacted>

Email 35

Ok I will try to organise train for this evening.

Sheila

Sheila M Voas, BVM&S, MRCVS
Chief Veterinary Officer (Scotland)
Animal Health and Welfare Division,
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Saughton House, Spur P, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD

<Redacted>



From: Boddice L (Luke)
Sent: 17 October 2018 15:09
To: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Sheila – think you might need to come back north as we will no doubt need to deploy you for cameras once this goes live.

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Sent: 17 October 2018 14:57
To: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

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<Redacted>



From: Veitch K (Kevin) **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy

Sent: 17 October 2018 15:08

To: <Redacted>

Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Sheila

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He thinks that many questions will obviously be asked and ask that Q&A will need to be worked up. He also wants to consider stakeholder engagement and providing an update to FM and DFM.

We will also need a SCANCE note for Cabinet on Tuesday.

Kind regards

Kevin Veitch

Private Secretary

Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy

2N.11

St Andrews House

☎ ⚙ ⌚ 📧 📅 💎 📧 📧 📧

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

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<Redacted>

Email 37

Great. Not quite what I suggested but it will do.

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<Redacted>



From: Boddice L (Luke)
Sent: 17 October 2018 15:00
To: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Thanks Sheila, good to know.

FSS has just provided the below quote for inclusion in our release.

<Redacted>, *Director of Operations in Food Standards Scotland said:*

"There are strict controls in place to protect consumers from the risk of BSE, including controls on animal feed, and removal of the parts of cattle most likely to carry BSE infectivity.

"Consumers can be reassured that these important protection measures remain in place and that Food Standards Scotland will continue to work to ensure that in respect of BSE controls, the safety of consumers remains a priority."

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<Redacted>

Email 39
HI <Redacted>

Many thanks for your phone call. Just to confirm that I have now spoken to <Redacted> and let her know the disappointing news.

We will press the start button on actions once get written confirmation of the results for the audit trail.

Many thanks to you and all your team for hard work on this and for the prompt results. No doubt we will be talking again in the next few days.

Sheila

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All animals over four years of age that die on farm are routinely tested for BSE under our comprehensive surveillance system. Whilst the disease is not directly transmitted from animal to animal, its cohorts, including offspring, have been traced and isolated, and will be destroyed in line with EU requirements.

In addition to the measures we have in place for fallen stock and animal feed, there is a strict control regime to protect consumers. This includes the removal of specified risk material such as the spinal column, brain and skull from carcasses.

From: Waite S (Sheelagh) **On Behalf Of** Voas S (Sheila)

Sent: 17 October 2018 14:26

To: <Redacted>

Subject: BSE - positive test results

Importance: High

All,

I have just received telephone notification from the TSE national reference laboratory at Weybridge that our suspect BSE in a 5 year old cow from Aberdeenshire has given positive test results for classical BSE. This is disappointing but we are not unique - both France and Ireland lost their statuses soon after getting them. I have been discussing with Comms colleagues and we are ready to go with communications however I would prefer to wait until I have written confirmation of the

results. This should happen within the next hour or so. I am happy to discuss with anyone who wishes more information but I am in London so would need a little bit of notice.

Sheila M Voas, BVM&S, MRCVS, ARAgS

Chief Veterinary Officer (Scotland)
Animal Health and Welfare Division,
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate,
The Scottish Government
Saughton House, Spur P, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD

<Redacted>

Email 41

Thanks Ian

This meeting is due to finish at half past so will just need to find a quiet space so might be a few minutes late

Sheila M Voas, BVM&S, MRCVS

Chief Veterinary Officer (Scotland)
Animal Health and Welfare Division,
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate,
The Scottish Government
Saughton House, Spur P, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD

<Redacted>



From: Murdoch I J (Ian)

Sent: 17 October 2018 12:27

To: <Redacted>

Subject: RE: Fw:BSE Comms Planning

Hi Sheila

Here are dial in details:

<Redacted>

<Redacted>

Ian

From: Voas S (Sheila)

Sent: 17 October 2018 12:20

To: <Redacted>

Cc: <Redacted>

Subject: RE: Fw:BSE Comms Planning

Can attend this if required (maybe a few minutes late) but would need dial in details. However if you don't need me that's fine.

Sheila M Voas, BVM&S, MRCVS

Chief Veterinary Officer (Scotland)
Animal Health and Welfare Division,
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate,
The Scottish Government
Saughton House, Spur P, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD

<Redacted>



-----Original Appointment-----

From: Dick J (Julie)

Sent: 16 October 2018 20:08

To: <Redacted>

Subject: Fw:BSE Comms Planning

When: 17 October 2018 12:30-13:30 (UTC+00:00) Dublin, Edinburgh, Lisbon, London.

Where: SH Ground Floor Meeting Room P-1 (16)

Ian, Sam, for you as well.

Sheila, Martyn For info - so you know what we are up to. With the current status of information I will be suggesting two different lines to be ready.

Nick

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

Hi Nick

I have had a chat with Luke, can we catch up to discuss some planning around stakeholder comms/social media etc around BSE, I have a copy of the signed off news release

Thanks

Julie

Julie Dick
Head of ARE Communications
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate

Scottish Government
Saughton House | C1 Spur | EH11 3XD
<Redacted>

Email 42

Can attend this if required (maybe a few minutes late) but would need dial in details. However if you don't need me that's fine.

Sheila M Voas, BVM&S, MRCVS

Chief Veterinary Officer (Scotland)
Animal Health and Welfare Division,
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The Scottish Government
Saughton House, Spur P, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD

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Thanks

Julie

Julie Dick
Head of ARE Communications

Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate
Scottish Government
Saughton House | C1 Spur | EH11 3XD
<Redacted>

Email 43

So Chinese whispers indeed

A salient less on for us all

Sheila M Voas, BVM&S, MRCVS

Chief Veterinary Officer (Scotland)
Animal Health and Welfare Division,
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate,
The Scottish Government
Saughton House, Spur P, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD

<Redacted>



From: Boddice L (Luke)
Sent: 17 October 2018 11:57
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - DEFRA update

It was <Redacted> one of their comms people. Was coming in following her having a chat with Scott Walker.

From: Ambrose N (Nick) Dr
Sent: 17 October 2018 11:54
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - DEFRA update

I had a call from Scott Walker this morning and relayed the same information that you told <Redacted>. He said he would put comms in touch, but no more than that.

Nick

From: Voas S (Sheila)
Sent: 17 October 2018 11:52

To: <Redacted>

Subject: RE: BSE - DEFRA update

Who did you speak to in NFUS? <Redacted> was given heads up yesterday that we were investigating a suspect and that we should know more later this week or next. Chinese whispers.

Sheila M Voas, BVM&S, MRCVS

Chief Veterinary Officer (Scotland)
Animal Health and Welfare Division,
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate,
The Scottish Government
Saughton House, Spur P, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD

<Redacted>



From: Boddice L (Luke)

Sent: 17 October 2018 11:47

To: <Redacted>

Subject: RE: BSE - DEFRA update

Just had a call from NFUS asking about when we are going public on the BSE case. I've said we are waiting final test results before going live and won't be saying anything proactively until those results come in – likely to be over the weekend/early next week. They have agreed to remain silent until then as well.

From: Voas S (Sheila)

Sent: 17 October 2018 10:18

To: <Redacted>

Subject: RE: BSE - DEFRA update

Yes Kate I would prefer that Defra were less involved but APHA have been reporting to them too. But its not wrong that they are preparing as they will report to OIE for us as international relationships are reserved.

I have discussed reporting lines and rest assured we have been assured that we will be informed of results in advance of anyone else. This has been reiterated by CVO for Defra.

As regards the human health implications I think this is simply a mistake as the press release has been written by a non expert – which is why we are trying to make sure that it is corrected. It is almost impossible to prove a negative but the wording should reflect that atypical has never had any human health consequences rather than being ultra precautionary. The Lines from FSS should also help with our message..

Happy to discuss further as required

Sheila

Sheila M Voas, BVM&S, MRCVS

Chief Veterinary Officer (Scotland)
Animal Health and Welfare Division,
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate,
The Scottish Government
Saughton House, Spur P, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD

<Redacted>



From: Higgins K (Kate)
Sent: 17 October 2018 10:06
To: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - DEFRA update

I'm a bit discomfited a) that DEFRA advice on human health appears to diverge from where we were
b) that Defra are this involved at this stage at all

Luke and I going to have a chat and we'll come back

Kate Higgins
Special Advisor to the First Minister
Rural Economy and Connectivity
<Redacted>

Scottish Government
St Andrew's House, 2 Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG
Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary to the Scottish Government are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot.

From: Voas S (Sheila)
Sent: 17 October 2018 09:27
To: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - DEFRA update

OK Let me know if you need me to do anything.

Sheila M Voas, BVM&S, MRCVS

Chief Veterinary Officer (Scotland)
Animal Health and Welfare Division,
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate,

The Scottish Government
Saughton House, Spur P, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD

<Redacted>



From: Boddice L (Luke)
Sent: 17 October 2018 08:49
To: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - DEFRA update

Yes, I will go back to DEFRA

From: Ambrose N (Nick) Dr
Sent: 16 October 2018 17:24
To: <Redacted>
Subject: Re: BSE - DEFRA update

Luke,

You have the answer to your question in the email from Martyn at 16.46, and a comment from Sheila that the last paragraphs of the note need redrafting. Can we leave it to you to feedback please?

Nick

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: Boddice L (Luke)
Sent: Tuesday, 16 October 2018 15:35
To: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - DEFRA update

Now with DEFRA ministerial briefing

From: Boddice L (Luke)
Sent: 16 October 2018 15:33
To: <Redacted>
Subject: BSE - DEFRA update

Nick/Sheila,

Had a quick chat with DEFRA comms around joined up comms. They have confirmed that if it is classical BSE, their ministers are likely to want to do something in HoC. I've said that's fine, as long as it's post us. They again agreed that they are happy for SG to take the lead.

With regards to the signed off release, can you approach FSS/APHA for supportive quotes – no longer than 100 words?

I've also asked Julie Dick (cc'd) to pull together a one page stakeholder comms strategy, to ensure messaging hits key targets.

Can I just double check, does atypical and/or classical have a risk to human health? I'm assuming it does, but because this case was caught before entering the food system, there is no risk on this occasion.

DEFRA has also agreed to share some briefing they gave to their ministers. I'll forward as and when it comes in. I've not made the same commitment.

Luke

Luke Boddice | Comms Greener

Scottish Government, St Andrew's House

<Redacted>

Email 44

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Sheila M Voas, BVM&S, MRCVS

Chief Veterinary Officer (Scotland)

Animal Health and Welfare Division,

Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate,

The Scottish Government

Saughton House, Spur P, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD

<Redacted>



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To: <Redacted>

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Happy to discuss further as required

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Sheila M Voas, BVM&S, MRCVS
Chief Veterinary Officer (Scotland)
Animal Health and Welfare Division,
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Saughton House, Spur P, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD

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Special Advisor to the First Minister
Rural Economy and Connectivity

<Redacted>

Scottish Government

St Andrew's House, 2 Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

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From: Voas S (Sheila)

Sent: 17 October 2018 09:27

To: <Redacted>

Subject: RE: BSE - DEFRA update

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Sheila M Voas, BVM&S, MRCVS

Chief Veterinary Officer (Scotland)

Animal Health and Welfare Division,

Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate,

The Scottish Government

Saughton House, Spur P, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD

<Redacted>



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Sent: 17 October 2018 08:49

<Redacted>

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Luke

Luke Boddice | Comms Greener
Scottish Government, St Andrew's House
<Redacted>

Email 45

I should be in canteen on 8th floor from about 12.45pm to about 1.30

Sheila M Voas, BVM&S, MRCVS
Chief Veterinary Officer (Scotland)
Animal Health and Welfare Division,
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate,
The Scottish Government
Saughton House, Spur P, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD

<Redacted>



From: <Redacted>
Sent: 17 October 2018 11:45
To: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: OFFICIAL SENSITIVE: RBSE 18/00003 - recent BSE fallen stock case

Hi Sheila

Perhaps we can speak at some point
Kind regards
<REDACTED>

From: Voas, Sheila
Sent: 17 October 2018 11:09
To: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: OFFICIAL SENSITIVE: RBSE 18/00003 - recent BSE fallen stock case

Thanks <Redacted> Im in Nobel House today too
Whilst what you say sounds sensible let's make decisions based on the full suite of results. If the samples don't match and confirm identity is the suspect cow, the priority will be to seek alternative animal rather than lifting any restrictions.

Sheila

Sheila M Voas, BVM&S, MRCVS
Chief Veterinary Officer (Scotland)
Animal Health and Welfare Division,
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate,
The Scottish Government
Saughton House, Spur P, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD

<Redacted>



From: <Redacted>
Sent: 17 October 2018 10:49
To: <Redacted> <<Redacted>>

Cc: <Redacted>

Subject: RE: OFFICIAL SENSITIVE: RBSE 18/00003 - recent BSE fallen stock case

Dear <Redacted>

Thank you for your email yesterday and rapid confirmation

APHA Scotland – we discussed yesterday next steps so can we ensure we are ready in preparation for the ID results being confirmatory that this is the animal in question.

Sheila, <Redacted> – my advice would be to wait until the ID results are available to consider next step. If they are available and confirm the animal identity we will be ready to follow OM instructions; if the results confirm a mismatch, I am afraid we will have to undertake the testing on the remaining hides and release the current offspring and cohorts from restriction. Would you agree with this course of action and are there any additional considerations you wish to make?

<Redacted>, Any idea of the timings for the remaining hides analysis, in the worst case scenario?

As discussed please any urgent communications please contact me today on <Redacted> as I am presenting at the national ODN workshop at Nobel House today

Kind regards

<Redacted>

From: <Redacted>

Sent: 16 October 2018 21:48

To: <Redacted>

Cc: <Redacted>

Subject: Re: OFFICIAL SENSITIVE: RBSE 18/00003 - recent BSE fallen stock case

Thank you all.

Noted by me.

Note to all in Defra and APHA that I request no information to be shared wider than this group until I am content having consulted with CVO Scotland who is lead in this case.

Thanks

<Redacted>

Sent from my iPhone

On 16 Oct 2018, at 20:48, Blissitt MJ (Martyn) "<Redacted>" wrote:

<Redacted> – Many thanks. This is clear. We await discriminatory test results and DNA matching. All results will need to be available before anybody goes public, so this needs to be kept as Official Sensitive for now. SG policy and SG Comms are in the lead..

CVO Scotland may wish to consider holding a CVO stocktake teleconference when all results are known.

Might I suggest that CVO Scotland and CVO UK are personally the first recipients of any deleterious news when all results are in? I shall try to communicate this to both tonight.

Thanks to your team for the prompt report,

MB

Dr Martyn Blissitt

Veterinary Adviser (Notifiable Diseases),
Animal Health and Welfare Division,
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate,
Scottish Government,
Saughton House,
Broomhouse Drive,
Edinburgh EH11 3XD,

From: <Redacted>

Sent: 16 October 2018 20:30

To: <Redacted>

Subject: OFFICIAL SENSITIVE: RBSE 18/00003 - recent BSE fallen stock case

Dear All

The confirmatory laboratories at APHA Weybridge have completed Western blot testing and Immunohistochemistry (IHC) for RBSE 18/00003. I have taken the decision to provide you with the following findings resulting from our confirmatory testing investigations into this case:

- IHC testing – confirmatory output - POSITIVE for BSE
- Western Blot testing – confirmatory and discriminatory output – at this stage, the western blot results support the IHC positive result and indicate further scrutiny via Glycoform analysis was required for the western blot banding pattern observed for RBSE 18/00003. This analysis enables us to discriminate clearly between classical and atypical forms of BSE. The laboratory have undertaken this analysis this evening and the results have just been completed. We intend to consult with our pathologist tomorrow morning and present our further data, ahead of the official reporting of the outcome on this case.

Our APHA Sequencing Unit are currently working on the following:

- DNA matching – Cattle Microsatellite Identification (CMI) testing – results anticipated Late Wednesday/early Thursday this week.

This email constitutes a sit rep of testing outcomes so far for this case and will be followed by official reporting of the confirmed BSE case by the appointed APHA pathologist, once all the data for this case have been considered. As more results become available I will update you swiftly.

With very best wishes

<Redacted>

From: Blissitt MJ (Martyn) <Redacted>

Sent: 16 October 2018 13:10

To: <Redacted>

Subject: RE: Scotland BSE Suspect - Weybridge testing schedule

<Redacted> – Many thanks.

We are also hoping that the DNA matching tests will not prove to be an additional problem, as that could throw a spanner in the works.

SG colleagues – please note yellow text below.

MB

Dr Martyn Blissitt

Veterinary Adviser (Notifiable Diseases),
Animal Health and Welfare Division,
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate,
Scottish Government,
Saughton House,
Broomhouse Drive,
Edinburgh EH11 3XD,

From: <Redacted>

Sent: 16 October 2018 12:32

To: <Redacted>

Subject: Re: Scotland BSE Suspect - Weybridge testing schedule

Thank <Redacted>

Martyn - we have prepared an explanatory table re the confirmatory testing timescales. Once I am back from Germany I will discuss with the team and send on to you and Sheila.

I can confirm that all cases are given the highest priority in the lab - and TRT is usually under a week from receipt by us. The extended timescale in the contract is to allow for the complexity of handling poor material/interpretation issues that can occur.

Best wishes

<Redacted>

<Redacted>

<Redacted>

On 16 Oct 2018, at 13:21, <Redacted>> wrote:

Dear Martyn

Just to provide a succinct summary for you from the NRL and confirmatory testing perspectives:

Western blotting is under way and we hope to have results this evening.
IHC is also under way and should be available tomorrow.

There has been no early indication of any obvious issues with tissue quality. With that in mind we hope to have confirmatory testing wrapped up within the week.

We will notify you of any outcomes ASAP.

With best wishes
<Redacted>

Sent from my iPhone

On 16 Oct 2018, at 11:50, <Redacted> wrote:

Can you please indicate what time today these results will be available - <Redacted> response indicates end of the week, however I am expecting a result later today.

Many thanks

<Redacted>
<Redacted>

Begin forwarded message:

From: "<Redacted>"

Date: 16 October 2018 at 11:58:54 CEST

To: "<Redacted>"

Subject: RE: Scotland BSE Suspect - Weybridge testing schedule

Hi Martyn

If there is a mismatch with our CMI testing:

- ? We have 40 samples either ear, hide or both at APHA Office in Dumfries.
- ? We do not have any DNA material samples for 6 of the 46 brain stem samples submitted on the same day as the suspect because ears were mistakenly discarded (23 ears discarded) and the hides were of poor quality so the carcasses were not skinned and with skin intact rendered once the brainstem was taken.
- ? However, we should know the holding details as per the submission form for the 6 samples where there is no DNA material.

This was the update I had yesterday from the AHO officer visited the site.

I am hoping for a CMI match at this moment in time with the current samples being tested!

Thanks

Regards

<Redacted>

From: Blissitt MJ (Martyn) <Redacted>

Sent: 16 October 2018 10:48

To: <Redacted>

Subject: RE: Scotland BSE Suspect - Weybridge testing schedule

<Redacted> – Many thanks for your prompt and informative response - much appreciated.

A further complication would arise if we don't get a DNA match, because that would put the origin and provenance of the suspect in doubt and negate the epidemiological enquiry. If that happens we would probably be obliged to send you the remaining 23 ears from the suspects consignment. If that produced no matches then we do have 46 hide samples available from the suspects consignment that have all been sampled as a contingency. We could probably not act on any positive results without a confident DNA story in place. It is unfortunate that 23 ears from the consignment of 46 cattle were inadvertently destroyed.....

SG colleagues to note.

MB

Dr Martyn Blissitt

Veterinary Adviser (Notifiable Diseases),
Animal Health and Welfare Division,
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate,
Scottish Government,
Saughton House,
Broomhouse Drive,
Edinburgh EH11 3XD,

From: <Redacted>

Sent: 16 October 2018 10:38

To: <Redacted>

Subject: RE: Scotland BSE Suspect - Weybridge testing schedule

Hi Martyn

Please see my comments below – I am not the best person for providing fast-tracked timelines but <Redacted> will be able to give you a better picture.

Hope this helps

Thanks

Regards

<Redacted>

From: Blissitt MJ (Martyn) <Redacted>

Sent: 16 October 2018 10:13

To: <Redacted>

Subject: Scotland BSE Suspect - Weybridge testing schedule

<Redacted> –

Just back in the Office and catching up. I thought it prudent to seek a reminder about the various tests underway – to ensure that I have a proper understanding and an up to date picture. If you are not the most appropriate immediate contact please say.

DNA Matching (CMI):

We have a brainstem sample which we are endeavouring to DNA match with a hide sample and a blood sample - are all supposed to be from the suspect (Yes). The blood sample from the BSE suspect was tracked as arriving at Weybridge at 0825 on Friday 12 Oct 18, and I think that the other samples also arrived last week (received on 11/10/18)?

Hide and blood samples have arrived. The DNA extraction was conducted yesterday and PCR, sequencing will follow in the next few days.

Could you let me know the timelines for the likely DNA matching results? If all works well, I think end of this week or earlier is a possibility.

Western Blot and IHC confirmatory testing of Suspect BSE brainstem

You kindly advised that 10-15 working days is the prescribed timeline, but that fast tracking may be able to provide initial results by the end of the week? Grateful also if I have understood this correctly. Hope all going to plan.

Again I believe mWB is likely to get us a result by mid or late this week (provided all goes to plan) and IHC probably towards the end of the week.

In general ETA for fast-track results is likely to be late-this-week with some possibility of some results being available mid-week, this is provided no re-testing is required. mWB should tell us if its classical or atypical and the CMI should ideally give us a match between brainstem and the hide/blood sample.

Many thanks and see you next week,
Unfortunately I won't be able to attend next week's contract meeting but TS5902 update will be covered.

MB

Dr Martyn Blissitt

Veterinary Adviser (Notifiable Diseases),
Animal Health and Welfare Division,
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate,
Scottish Government,
Saughton House,
Broomhouse Drive,
Edinburgh EH11 3XD,

Email 46

No worries. <Redacted> is doing a good job generally.
We can discuss how these are reported more generally at a later date (perhaps as an exotic disease?) but for now I think we have an agreed way forward.
Enjoy Germany
S

Sheila M Voas, BVM&S, MRCVS

Chief Veterinary Officer (Scotland)
Animal Health and Welfare Division,
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate,
The Scottish Government
Saughton House, Spur P, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD

<Redacted>



From: <Redacted>

Sent: 17 October 2018 10:10

To: <Redacted>

Subject: RE: OFFICIAL SENSITIVE: RBSE 18/00003 - recent BSE fallen stock case

Hi Sheila

I'm currently in Germany on business until tomorrow – with very limited access as travelling - however <Redacted> is in direct communication with you, Martyn, <Redacted> in my absence. The comms list used so far was as a result of the welsh case in 2015 – and <Redacted> has now reduced to a restricted list as advised.

Best wishes

<Redacted>

From: Voas, Sheila

Sent: 17 October 2018 09:16

To: <Redacted>

Subject: RE: OFFICIAL SENSITIVE: RBSE 18/00003 - recent BSE fallen stock case

Hi <Redacted> many thanks

All the CVOs are together today so probably won't need to have a formal stocktake today. If after that they will reconsider as <Redacted> is 't coming to BCVA until later tomorrow. So grateful if you could let me, Martyn and <Redacted> know in advance of sharing more widely ie this copy list, or phone me.

Many thanks

Sheila

Sheila M Voas, BVM&S, MRCVS

Chief Veterinary Officer (Scotland)

Animal Health and Welfare Division,

Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate,

The Scottish Government

Saughton House, Spur P, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD

<Redacted>



From: <Redacted>

Sent: 17 October 2018 08:33

To: <Redacted>

Subject: RE: OFFICIAL SENSITIVE: RBSE 18/00003 - recent BSE fallen stock case

Sheila

Please advise how you would like further results and if you want a discussion/stocktake

Best wishes

<Redacted>

From: <Redacted>

Sent: 16 October 2018 21:48

To: <Redacted>

Cc: <Redacted>

Subject: Re: OFFICIAL SENSITIVE: RBSE 18/00003 - recent BSE fallen stock case

Thank you all.

Noted by me.

Note to all in Defra and APHA that I request no information to be shared wider than this group until I am content having consulted with CVO Scotland who is lead in this case.

Thanks

<Redacted>

Sent from my iPhone

On 16 Oct 2018, at 20:48, Blissitt MJ (Martyn<Redacted> wrote:

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CVO Scotland may wish to consider holding a CVO stocktake teleconference when all results are known.

Might I suggest that CVO Scotland and CVO UK are personally the first recipients of any deleterious news when all results are in? I shall try to communicate this to both tonight.

Thanks to your team for the prompt report,

MB

Dr Martyn Blissitt

Veterinary Adviser (Notifiable Diseases),
Animal Health and Welfare Division,
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate,
Scottish Government,
Saughton House,
Broomhouse Drive,
Edinburgh EH11 3XD,

From: <Redacted>

Sent: 16 October 2018 20:30

To: <Redacted>

Subject: OFFICIAL SENSITIVE: RBSE 18/00003 - recent BSE fallen stock case

Dear All

The confirmatory laboratories at APHA Weybridge have completed Western blot testing and Immunohistochemistry (IHC) for RBSE 18/00003. I have taken the decision to provide you with the following findings resulting from our confirmatory testing investigations into this case:

- IHC testing – confirmatory output - POSITIVE for BSE
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- DNA matching – Cattle Microsatellite Identification (CMI) testing – results anticipated Late Wednesday/early Thursday this week.

This email constitutes a sit rep of testing outcomes so far for this case and will be followed by official reporting of the confirmed BSE case by the appointed APHA pathologist, once all the data for this case have been considered. As more results become available I will update you swiftly.

With very best wishes

<Redacted>

From: Blissitt MJ (Martyn) <Redacted>

Sent: 16 October 2018 13:10

To: <Redacted>

Subject: RE: Scotland BSE Suspect - Weybridge testing schedule

<Redacted> – Many thanks.

We are also hoping that the DNA matching tests will not prove to be an additional problem, as that could throw a spanner in the works.

SG colleagues – please note yellow text below.

MB

Dr Martyn Blissitt

Veterinary Adviser (Notifiable Diseases),
Animal Health and Welfare Division,
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate,
Scottish Government,
Saughton House,
Broomhouse Drive,
Edinburgh EH11 3XD,

From: <Redacted>

Sent: 16 October 2018 12:32

To: <Redacted>

Subject: Re: Scotland BSE Suspect - Weybridge testing schedule

Thank <Redacted>

Martyn - we have prepared an explanatory table re the confirmatory testing timescales. Once I am back from Germany I will discuss with the team and send on to you and Sheila.

I can confirm that all cases are given the highest priority in the lab - and TRT is usually under a week from receipt by us. The extended timescale in the contract is to allow for the complexity of handling poor material/interpretation issues that can occur.

Best wishes

<Redacted>

<Redacted>

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IHC is also under way and should be available tomorrow.

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We will notify you of any outcomes ASAP.

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<Redacted>

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Hi Martyn

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- ? However, we should know the holding details as per the submission form for the 6 samples where there is no DNA material.

This was the update I had yesterday from the AHO officer visited the site.

I am hoping for a CMI match at this moment in time with the current samples being tested!

Thanks

Regards

<Redacted>

From: Blissitt MJ (Martyn) <Redacted>

Sent: 16 October 2018 10:48

To: <Redacted>

Subject: RE: Scotland BSE Suspect - Weybridge testing schedule

<Redacted> – Many thanks for your prompt and informative response - much appreciated.

A further complication would arise if we don't get a DNA match, because that would put the origin and provenance of the suspect in doubt and negate the epidemiological enquiry. If that happens we would probably be obliged to send you the remaining 23 ears from the suspects consignment. If that produced no matches then we do have 46 hide samples available from the suspects consignment that have all been sampled as a contingency. We could probably not act on any positive results without a

confident DNA story in place. It is unfortunate that 23 ears from the consignment of 46 cattle were inadvertently destroyed.....

SG colleagues to note.

MB

Dr Martyn Blissitt

Veterinary Adviser (Notifiable Diseases),
Animal Health and Welfare Division,
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate,
Scottish Government,
Saughton House,
Broomhouse Drive,
Edinburgh EH11 3XD,

From: <Redacted>

Sent: 16 October 2018 10:38

To: <Redacted>

Subject: RE: Scotland BSE Suspect - Weybridge testing schedule

Hi Martyn

Please see my comments below – I am not the best person for providing fast-tracked timelines but <Redacted> will be able to give you a better picture.

Hope this helps

Thanks

Regards

<Redacted>

From: Blissitt MJ (Martyn) <Redacted>

Sent: 16 October 2018 10:13

To: <Redacted> <Redacted>

Subject: Scotland BSE Suspect - Weybridge testing schedule

<Redacted>

Just back in the Office and catching up. I thought it prudent to seek a reminder about the various tests underway – to ensure that I have a proper understanding and an up to date picture. If you are not the most appropriate immediate contact please say.

DNA Matching (CMI):

We have a brainstem sample which we are endeavouring to DNA match with a hide sample and a blood sample - are all supposed to be from the suspect (Yes). The blood sample from the BSE suspect was tracked as arriving at Weybridge at 0825 on Friday 12 Oct 18, and I think that the other samples also arrived last week (received on 11/10/18)?

Hide and blood samples have arrived. The DNA extraction was conducted yesterday and PCR, sequencing will follow in the next few days.

Could you let me know the timelines for the likely DNA matching results? If all works well, I think end of this week or earlier is a possibility.

Western Blot and IHC confirmatory testing of Suspect BSE brainstem

You kindly advised that 10-15 working days is the prescribed timeline, but that fast tracking may be able to provide initial results by the end of the week? Grateful also if I have understood this correctly. Hope all going to plan.

Again I believe mWB is likely to get us a result by mid or late this week (provided all goes to plan) and IHC probably towards the end of the week.

In general ETA for fast-track results is likely to be late-this-week with some possibility of some results being available mid-week, this is provided no re-testing is required. mWB should tell us if its classical or atypical and the CMI should ideally give us a match between brainstem and the hide/blood sample.

Many thanks and see you next week,
Unfortunately I won't be able to attend next week's contract meeting but TS5902 update will be covered.

MB

Dr Martyn Blissitt

Veterinary Adviser (Notifiable Diseases),
Animal Health and Welfare Division,
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate,
Scottish Government,
Saughton House,
Broomhouse Drive,
Edinburgh EH11 3XD,

Email 47

Yes Kate I would prefer that Defra were less involved but APHA have been reporting to them too. But its not wrong that they are preparing as they will report to OIE for us as international relationships are reserved.

I have discussed reporting lines and rest assured we have been assured that we will be informed of results in advance of anyone else. This has been reiterated by CVO for Defra.

As regards the human health implications I think this is simply a mistake as the press release has been written by a non expert – which is why we are trying to make sure that it is corrected. It is almost impossible to prove a negative but the wording should reflect that atypical has never had any human health consequences rather than being ultra precautionary. The Lines from FSS should also help with our message..

Happy to discuss further as required

Sheila

Sheila M Voas, BVM&S, MRCVS

Chief Veterinary Officer (Scotland)
Animal Health and Welfare Division,
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate,
The Scottish Government
Saughton House, Spur P, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD

<Redacted>



From: Higgins K (Kate)
Sent: 17 October 2018 10:06
To: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - DEFRA update

I'm a bit discomfited a) that DEFRA advice on human health appears to diverge from where we were
b) that Defra are this involved at this stage at all

Luke and I going to have a chat and we'll come back

Kate Higgins
Special Advisor to the First Minister
Rural Economy and Connectivity
<Redacted>

Scottish Government
St Andrew's House, 2 Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG
Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary to the Scottish Government are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot.

From: Voas S (Sheila)
Sent: 17 October 2018 09:27
To: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - DEFRA update

OK Let me know if you need me to do anything.

Sheila M Voas, BVM&S, MRCVS

Chief Veterinary Officer (Scotland)
Animal Health and Welfare Division,
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate,

The Scottish Government
Saughton House, Spur P, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD

<Redacted>



From: Boddice L (Luke)
Sent: 17 October 2018 08:49
To: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - DEFRA update

Yes, I will go back to DEFRA

From: Ambrose N (Nick) Dr
Sent: 16 October 2018 17:24
To: <Redacted>
Subject: Re: BSE - DEFRA update

Luke,

You have the answer to your question in the email from Martyn at 16.46, and a comment from Sheila that the last paragraphs of the note need redrafting. Can we leave it to you to feedback please?

Nick

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: Boddice L (Luke)
Sent: Tuesday, 16 October 2018 15:35
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - DEFRA update

Now with DEFRA ministerial briefing

From: Boddice L (Luke)
Sent: 16 October 2018 15:33
To: <Redacted>
Subject: BSE - DEFRA update

Nick/Sheila,

Had a quick chat with DEFRA comms around joined up comms. They have confirmed that if it is classical BSE, their ministers are likely to want to do something in HoC. I've said that's fine, as long as it's post us. They again agreed that they are happy for SG to take the lead.

With regards to the signed off release, can you approach FSS/APHA for supportive quotes – no longer than 100 words?

I've also asked Julie Dick (cc'd) to pull together a one page stakeholder comms strategy, to ensure messaging hits key targets.

Can I just double check, does atypical and/or classical have a risk to human health? I'm assuming it does, but because this case was caught before entering the food system, there is no risk on this occasion.

DEFRA has also agreed to share some briefing they gave to their ministers. I'll forward as and when it comes in. I've not made the same commitment.

Luke

Luke Boddice | Comms Greener

Scottish Government, St Andrew's House

e<Redacted>

Email 48

He may already be aware of our BSE suspect as I told <Redacted> last night. But if not he could be told – but not for onward spread until they get formal notification.

Sheila

Sheila M Voas, BVM&S, MRCVS

Chief Veterinary Officer (Scotland)

Animal Health and Welfare Division,

Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate,

The Scottish Government

Saughton House, Spur P, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD

<Redacted>



From: Symes H (Hollie)

Sent: 17 October 2018 09:51

To: <Redacted>

Subject: Call with Scott Walker

Hi all,

Elinor will be speaking with Scott Walker this Friday, is there anything you would like her to raise or make her aware of previous to this?

Thanks,

Hollie Symes

Business Support
Agriculture and Rural Economy
Saughton House
P1 Spur
<Redacted>

Email 49

Thanks <Redacted>
S

Sheila M Voas, BVM&S, MRCVS

Chief Veterinary Officer (Scotland)
Animal Health and Welfare Division,
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate,
The Scottish Government
Saughton House, Spur P, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD

<Redacted>



From: <Redacted>

Sent: 17 October 2018 09:45

To: <Redacted>

Subject: Re: OFFICIAL SENSITIVE: RBSE 18/00003 - recent BSE fallen stock case

Dear Sheila

Thank you for your email. I am currently wanting to consult further with my pathologist regarding this case and also conscious that we await further test results for DNA matching. I will consult with <Redacted> regarding further developments.

Best wishes

<Redacted>

Sent from my iPhone

On 17 Oct 2018, at 09:16, Voas, Sheila <Redacted> wrote:

Hi <Redacted> many thanks

All the CVOs are together today so probably won't need to have a formal stocktake today. If after that the will reconsider as <Redacted> is 't coming to BCVA until later tomorrow. So grateful if you could let me, Martyn and <Redacted> know in advance of sharing more widely ie this copy list, or phone me.

Many thanks

Sheila

Sheila M Voas, BVM&S, MRCVS

Chief Veterinary Officer (Scotland)
Animal Health and Welfare Division,
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate,
The Scottish Government
Saughton House, Spur P, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD

<Redacted>

<image001.png><image002.png>

From: <Redacted>

Sent: 17 October 2018 08:33

To: <Redacted>

Subject: RE: OFFICIAL SENSITIVE: RBSE 18/00003 - recent BSE fallen stock case

Sheila

Please advise how you would like further results and if you want a discussion/stocktake
Best wishes

<Redacted>

From: <Redacted>

Sent: 16 October 2018 21:48

To: <Redacted>

Subject: Re: OFFICIAL SENSITIVE: RBSE 18/00003 - recent BSE fallen stock case

Thank you all.

Noted by me.

Note to all in Defra and APHA that I request no information to be shared wider than this group until I am content having consulted with CVO Scotland who is lead in this case.

Thanks

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<Redacted>

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Sent: 16 October 2018 13:10

To: <Redacted>

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Animal Health and Welfare Division,
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Scottish Government,
Saughton House,
Broomhouse Drive,
Edinburgh EH11 3XD,

From: <Redacted>

Sent: 16 October 2018 12:32

To: <Redacted> <Redacted>

Subject: Re: Scotland BSE Suspect - Weybridge testing schedule

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Sent: 16 October 2018 10:38

To: <Redacted> <<[Redacted](#)>>

Subject: RE: Scotland BSE Suspect - Weybridge testing schedule

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Thanks

Regards

<Redacted>

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To: <Redacted>

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Veterinary Adviser (Notifiable Diseases),
Animal Health and Welfare Division,
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate,
Scottish Government,
Saughton House,
Broomhouse Drive,
Edinburgh EH11 3XD,

Email 50

OK we will see when the results come in. <Redacted> think the DNA won't be until tomorrow

Sheila M Voas, BVM&S, MRCVS

Chief Veterinary Officer (Scotland)
Animal Health and Welfare Division,
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate,
The Scottish Government
Saughton House, Spur P, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD

<Redacted>



From: Douglas A (Alastair)
Sent: 17 October 2018 09:09
To: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: Stakeholders

I suggest, if you haven't already, considering involving some of the "GB" groups in these discussions too (through the livestock core group).

Alastair Douglas, Exotic Diseases branch, Animal Health and Welfare Division (P Spur)
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate, Scottish Government
Saughton House, Broomhouse Drive, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD
<Redacted>



From: Ambrose N (Nick) Dr
Sent: 17 October 2018 08:36
To: <Redacted>
Subject: Re: Stakeholders

I agree.
I can phone SBA this morning, <Redacted>
N

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: Blissitt MJ (Martyn)
Sent: Wednesday, 17 October 2018 08:15
To: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: Stakeholders

Best to mirror exotic disease reporting procedures that seem to work well,
Cc Alastair

From: Voas S (Sheila)
Sent: 17 October 2018 08:02
To: <Redacted>
Subject: Stakeholders

I have had a quiet word with <Redacted> and BVA about the BSE suspect. <Redacted> is in Spain on holiday but heading home today. Do we need to warn Scottish Beef Association do you think? I think they are the only “major” party who haven’t at least had a heads up.

If this is classical (and maybe even if atypical) it might be wise to convene a short stakeholder telecom to get the facts out – APHA, FSS, NFUS, QMS, SAMW, SBA, SRUC, Moredun, BVA, as we would for an exotic notifiable. We would need to get the choreography right – after ministers but before or at same time as press release but it might head off danger / criticism. What do others think?

S

Sheila M Voas, BVM&S, MRCVS
Chief Veterinary Officer (Scotland)
Animal Health and Welfare Division,
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate,
The Scottish Government
Saughton House, Spur P, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD
<Redacted>



Email 51

OK

Sheila M Voas, BVM&S, MRCVS

Chief Veterinary Officer (Scotland)
Animal Health and Welfare Division,
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate,
The Scottish Government
Saughton House, Spur P, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD

<Redacted>



From: Boddice L (Luke)
Sent: 17 October 2018 08:51
To: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE line

I've gone back to them this morning. No harm in you mentioning at the CVO network though either.

From: Voas S (Sheila)
Sent: 16 October 2018 18:06
To: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE line
Importance: High

Luke,

Are you happy to go back to <Redacted> and suggest that Defra Comms may wish to rewrite their briefing – or do you want me to deal with it through the CVO network. I will be seeing <Redacted> (Defra CVO) tonight and tomorrow anyway, though that may come over as a bit heavy handed.

Sheila

Sheila M Voas, BVM&S, MRCVS
Chief Veterinary Officer (Scotland)

Animal Health and Welfare Division,
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate,
The Scottish Government
Saughton House, Spur P, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD

<Redacted>



From: Blissitt MJ (Martyn)
Sent: 16 October 2018 16:47
To: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE line

Sheila – There is no evidence at all that atypical BSE is a risk to human health – that would be news to OIE and many others. That is why it wouldn't affect the Negligible risk status. Checked with Weybridge.

As Sheila says, the last paragraph needs re-writing.

MB

Dr Martyn Blissitt
Veterinary Adviser (Notifiable Diseases),
Animal Health and Welfare Division,
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate,
Scottish Government,
Saughton House,
Broomhouse Drive,
Edinburgh EH11 3XD,

From: Voas S (Sheila)
Sent: 16 October 2018 16:24
To: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE line
Importance: High

Luke I am concerned about the highlighted sentences and the paragraphs in red below. I'm not the expert but will ask Martyn to follow up with scientists at the ref lab as I had understood that current understanding is that atypical BSE is NOT transmissible to humans. It will probably be tomorrow before we get answers

Either way the last 2 paragraphs are confusing and I would suggest that they need to be rewritten to be more accurate.

Sheila

Sheila M Voas, BVM&S, MRCVS

Chief Veterinary Officer (Scotland)
Animal Health and Welfare Division,
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate,
The Scottish Government
Saughton House, Spur P, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD

<Redacted>



From: <Redacted>

Sent: 16 October 2018 15:27

To: <Redacted>

Subject: RE: BSE line

Hi Luke,

Good to speak earlier. As discussed, below is our briefing on classical and atypical BSE – note in particular the highlighted line which notes that both can be transmitted to humans. Our understanding is also that in both cases all offspring and cohorts (cattle born in the same herd) need to be culled. Let us know if you have been told differently.

Great if you can also share your stakeholder / press handling over email so we can make sure it's accurately reflected in our update to SpAds and Ministers.

Thanks,

<Redacted>

Classical BSE was first diagnosed in the United Kingdom in 1986. It was first a European and later became a global problem affecting cattle. Epidemiological studies suggest that the source of this disease was **cattle feed prepared from BSE-infected animal tissues**, such as brain and spinal cord.

Whilst classical BSE was identified as a significant threat in the 90s, its occurrence has markedly decreased over the past years, as a result of the successful implementation of effective control measures and is now estimated to be extremely low (close to 0 cases).

Atypical BSE has different characteristics to classical BSE. Existing scientific evidence suggests that these atypical BSE types are sporadic or genetic prion diseases of cattle which are believed to occur in all cattle populations at a very low rate, and which have only been identified in older cattle when conducting intensive surveillance.

In the early 2000s, atypical prions causing atypical BSE were identified as the result of enhanced surveillance for transmissible spongiform encephalopathies. The number of cases of atypical BSE is negligible.

Indeed, whilst to date there is no evidence that atypical BSE is transmissible, recycling of the atypical BSE agent has not been ruled out, and therefore measures to manage exposure risk in the feed chain continue to be recommended as a precautionary measure.

The infectious agent – a prion – which causes classical and atypical BSE in cattle can be transmitted to humans through consumption of contaminated meat causing variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, which was first diagnosed in 1996. A prion is an abnormal form of a protein.

From: Boddice L (Luke)<Redacted> <Redacted>
Sent: 16 October 2018 09:29
To: <Redacted>
<Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE line

Yes, can take a call between 1430 and 1530.

Luke

From: <Redacted>
Sent: 16 October 2018 09:20
To: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE line

Thanks Luke. Are you free for a call this afternoon – any time between 2 – 4pm?

We'll call your direct line if that's easiest.

Juliet

From: Boddice L (Luke) <Redacted>
Sent: 16 October 2018 09:18
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE line

<Redacted>

Apologies was out of the office yesterday. Happy to have a chat anytime this week.

Luke

From: <Redacted>
Sent: 15 October 2018 16:48
To: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE line

Hi Luke,

Copying in <Redacted> who is working up some comms handling for our Ministers / SpAds ahead of when the final tests are confirmed. We'll keep you in the loop.

Thanks,
<Redacted>

From: <Redacted>
Sent: 12 October 2018 17:47
To: Boddice L (Luke) <Redacted>
<Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE line

Thanks for this Luke. Would be good to speak on Monday about contingency plans if the case is confirmed as classical BSE. I imagine one of your Ministers may want to do a WMS or give an Oral Statement?

Have a good weekend,

<Redacted>

Email 52

OK Let me know if you need me to do anything.

Sheila M Voas, BVM&S, MRCVS
Chief Veterinary Officer (Scotland)
Animal Health and Welfare Division,
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate,
The Scottish Government
Saughton House, Spur P, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD

<Redacted>



From: Boddice L (Luke)
Sent: 17 October 2018 08:49
To: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - DEFRA update

Yes, I will go back to DEFRA

From: Ambrose N (Nick) Dr
Sent: 16 October 2018 17:24
To: <Redacted>
Subject: Re: BSE - DEFRA update

Luke,

You have the answer to your question in the email from Martyn at 16.46, and a comment from Sheila that the last paragraphs of the note need redrafting. Can we leave it to you to feedback please?

Nick

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: Boddice L (Luke)
Sent: Tuesday, 16 October 2018 15:35
To: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - DEFRA update

Now with DEFRA ministerial briefing

From: Boddice L (Luke)
Sent: 16 October 2018 15:33
To: <Redacted>
Subject: BSE - DEFRA update

Nick/Sheila,

Had a quick chat with DEFRA comms around joined up comms. They have confirmed that if it is classical BSE, their ministers are likely to want to do something in HoC. I've said that's fine, as long as its post us. They again agreed that they are happy for SG to take the lead.

With regards to the signed off release, can you approach FSS/APHA for supportive quotes – no longer than 100 words?

I've also asked Julie Dick (cc'd) to pull together a one page stakeholder comms strategy, to ensure messaging hits key targets.

Can I just double check, does atypical and/or classical have a risk to human health? I'm assuming it does, but because this case was caught before entering the food system, there is no risk on this occasion.

DEFRA has also agreed to share some briefing they gave to their ministers. I'll forward as and when it comes in. I've not made the same commitment.

Luke

Luke Boddice | Comms Greener
Scottish Government, St Andrew's House
e<Redacted>

Email 53

Hi <Redacted> many thanks

All the CVOs are together today so probably won't need to have a formal stocktake today. If after that they will reconsider as <Redacted> is 't coming to BCVA until later tomorrow. So grateful if you could let me, Martyn and <Redacted> know in advance of sharing more widely ie this copy list, or phone me.

Many thanks

Sheila

Sheila M Voas, BVM&S, MRCVS

Chief Veterinary Officer (Scotland)
Animal Health and Welfare Division,
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate,
The Scottish Government
Saughton House, Spur P, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD

<Redacted>



From: <Redacted>

Sent: 17 October 2018 08:33

To: <Redacted>

Subject: RE: OFFICIAL SENSITIVE: RBSE 18/00003 - recent BSE fallen stock case

Sheila

Please advise how you would like further results and if you want a discussion/stocktake

Best wishes

<Redacted>

From: <Redacted>

Sent: 16 October 2018 21:48

To: <Redacted> <Redacted>

Subject: Re: OFFICIAL SENSITIVE: RBSE 18/00003 - recent BSE fallen stock case

Thank you all.

Noted by me.

Note to all in Defra and APHA that I request no information to be shared wider than this group until I am content having consulted with CVO Scotland who is lead in this case.

Thanks
<Redacted>

Sent from my iPhone

On 16 Oct 2018, at 20:48, "<Redacted>" wrote:

<Redacted> – Many thanks. This is clear. We await discriminatory test results and DNA matching. All results will need to be available before anybody goes public, so this needs to be kept as Official Sensitive for now. SG policy and SG Comms are in the lead..

CVO Scotland may wish to consider holding a CVO stocktake teleconference when all results are known.

Might I suggest that CVO Scotland and CVO UK are personally the first recipients of any deleterious news when all results are in? I shall try to communicate this to both tonight.

Thanks to your team for the prompt report,

MB

Dr Martyn Blissitt

Veterinary Adviser (Notifiable Diseases),
Animal Health and Welfare Division,
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate,
Scottish Government,
Saughton House,
Broomhouse Drive,
Edinburgh EH11 3XD,

From: <Redacted>

Sent: 16 October 2018 20:30

To: <Redacted> **Subject:** OFFICIAL SENSITIVE: RBSE 18/00003 - recent BSE fallen stock case

Dear All

The confirmatory laboratories at APHA Weybridge have completed Western blot testing and Immunohistochemistry (IHC) for RBSE 18/00003. I have taken the decision to provide you with the following findings resulting from our confirmatory testing investigations into this case:

- IHC testing – confirmatory output - POSITIVE for BSE

- Western Blot testing – confirmatory and discriminatory output – at this stage, the western blot results support the IHC positive result and indicate further scrutiny via Glycoform analysis was required for the western blot banding pattern observed for RBSE 18/00003. This analysis enables us to discriminate clearly between classical and atypical forms of BSE. The laboratory have undertaken this analysis this evening and the results have just been completed. We intend to consult with our pathologist tomorrow morning and present our further data, ahead of the official reporting of the outcome on this case.

Our APHA Sequencing Unit are currently working on the following:

- DNA matching – Cattle Microsatellite Identification (CMI) testing – results anticipated Late Wednesday/early Thursday this week.

This email constitutes a sit rep of testing outcomes so far for this case and will be followed by official reporting of the confirmed BSE case by the appointed APHA pathologist, once all the data for this case have been considered. As more results become available I will update you swiftly.

With very best wishes

<Redacted>

<Redacted>

From: Martyn Blissitt <Redacted>

Sent: 16 October 2018 13:10

To: <Redacted> <Redacted>

Subject: RE: Scotland BSE Suspect - Weybridge testing schedule

<Redacted> – Many thanks.

We are also hoping that the DNA matching tests will not prove to be an additional problem, as that could throw a spanner in the works.

SG colleagues – please note yellow text below.

MB

Dr Martyn Blissitt
Veterinary Adviser (Notifiable Diseases),
Animal Health and Welfare Division,
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate,
Scottish Government,
Saughton House,
Broomhouse Drive,
Edinburgh EH11 3XD,

From: <Redacted>
Sent: 16 October 2018 12:32
To: <Redacted>
Subject: Re: Scotland BSE Suspect - Weybridge testing schedule

Thank <Redacted>

Martyn - we have prepared an explanatory table re the confirmatory testing timescales. Once I am back from Germany I will discuss with the team and send on to you and Sheila.

I can confirm that all cases are given the highest priority in the lab - and TRT is usually under a week from receipt by us. The extended timescale in the contract is to allow for the complexity of handling poor material/interpretation issues that can occur.

Best wishes

<Redacted>

<Redacted>

On 16 Oct 2018, at 13:21, <Redacted> wrote:

Dear Martyn

Just to provide a succinct summary for you from the NRL and confirmatory testing perspectives:

Western blotting is under way and we hope to have results this evening.
IHC is also under way and should be available tomorrow.

There has been no early indication of any obvious issues with tissue quality. With that in mind we hope to have confirmatory testing wrapped up within the week.

We will notify you of any outcomes ASAP.

With best wishes
<Redacted>

Sent from my iPhone

On 16 Oct 2018, at 11:50, <Redacted> wrote:

Can you please indicate what time today these results will be available - <Redacted> response indicates end of the week, however I am expecting a result later today.

Many thanks

<Redacted>

Begin forwarded message:

From: "<Redacted>

Date: 16 October 2018 at 11:58:54 CEST

To: "<Redacted>

Subject: RE: Scotland BSE Suspect - Weybridge testing schedule

Hi Martyn

If there is a mismatch with our CMI testing:

- ? We have 40 samples either ear, hide or both at APHA Office in Dumfries.
- ? We do not have any DNA material samples for 6 of the 46 brain stem samples submitted on the same day as the suspect because ears were mistakenly discarded (23 ears discarded) and the hides were of poor quality so the carcasses were not skinned and with skin intact rendered once the brainstem was taken.
- ? However, we should know the holding details as per the submission form for the 6 samples where there is no DNA material.

This was the update I had yesterday from the AHO officer visited the site.

I am hoping for a CMI match at this moment in time with the current samples being tested!

Thanks

Regards

<Redacted>

From<Redacted>

Sent: 16 October 2018 10:48

To: <Redacted>

Subject: RE: Scotland BSE Suspect - Weybridge testing schedule

<Redacted> – Many thanks for your prompt and informative response - much appreciated.

A further complication would arise if we don't get a DNA match, because that would put the origin and provenance of the suspect in doubt and negate the epidemiological enquiry. If that happens we would probably be obliged to send you the remaining 23 ears from the suspects consignment. If that produced no matches then we do have 46 hide samples available from the suspects consignment that have all been sampled as a contingency. We could probably not act on any positive results without a confident DNA story in place. It is unfortunate that 23 ears from the consignment of 46 cattle were inadvertently destroyed.....

SG colleagues to note.

MB

Dr Martyn Blissitt

Veterinary Adviser (Notifiable Diseases),
Animal Health and Welfare Division,
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate,
Scottish Government,
Saughton House,
Broomhouse Drive,
Edinburgh EH11 3XD,

From: <Redacted>

Sent: 16 October 2018 10:38

To: <Redacted>

Subject: RE: Scotland BSE Suspect - Weybridge testing schedule

Hi Martyn

Please see my comments below – I am not the best person for providing fast-tracked timelines but <Redacted> will be able to give you a better picture.

Hope this helps

Thanks

Regards

<Redacted>

From: <Redacted>

Sent: 16 October 2018 10:13

To: <Redacted> <Redacted>

Subject: Scotland BSE Suspect - Weybridge testing schedule

<Redacted>

Just back in the Office and catching up. I thought it prudent to seek a reminder about the various tests underway – to ensure that I have a proper understanding and an up to date picture. If you are not the most appropriate immediate contact please say.

DNA Matching (CMI):

We have a brainstem sample which we are endeavouring to DNA match with a hide sample and a blood sample - are all supposed to be from the suspect (Yes). The blood sample from the BSE suspect was tracked as arriving at Weybridge at 0825 on Friday 12 Oct 18, and I think that the other samples also arrived last week (received on 11/10/18)?

Hide and blood samples have arrived. The DNA extraction was conducted yesterday and PCR, sequencing will follow in the next few days.

Could you let me know the timelines for the likely DNA matching results? If all works well, I think end of this week or earlier is a possibility.

Western Blot and IHC confirmatory testing of Suspect BSE brainstem

You kindly advised that 10-15 working days is the prescribed timeline, but that fast tracking may be able to provide initial results by the end of the week? Grateful also if I have understood this correctly. Hope all going to plan.

Again I believe mWB is likely to get us a result by mid or late this week (provided all goes to plan) and IHC probably towards the end of the week.

In general ETA for fast-track results is likely to be late-this-week with some possibility of some results being available mid-week, this is provided no re-testing is required. mWB should tell us if its classical or atypical and the CMI should ideally give us a match between brainstem and the hide/blood sample.

Many thanks and see you next week,
Unfortunately I won't be able to attend next week's contract meeting but TS5902 update will be covered.

MB

Dr Martyn Blissitt

Veterinary Adviser (Notifiable Diseases),
Animal Health and Welfare Division,
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate,
Scottish Government,
Saughton House,
Broomhouse Drive,
Edinburgh EH11 3XD,

Email 54

I have had a quiet word with <Redacted> and BVA about the BSE suspect. Andrew is in Spain on holiday but heading home today. Do we need to warn Scottish Beef Association do you think? I think they are the only "major" party who haven't at least had a heads up.

If this is classical (and maybe even if atypical) it might be wise to convene a short stakeholder telecom to get the facts out – APHA, FSS, NFUS, QMS, SAMW, SBA, SRUC, Moredun, BVA, as we would for an exotic notifiable. We would need to get the choreography right – after ministers but before or at same time as press release but it might head off danger / criticism. What do others think?

S

Sheila M Voas, BVM&S, MRCVS

Chief Veterinary Officer (Scotland)
Animal Health and Welfare Division,
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate,
The Scottish Government
Saughton House, Spur P, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD

<Redacted>



Email 55

BSE in the process of going positive – its going to be a busy few days.

Sheila M Voas, BVM&S, MRCVS

Chief Veterinary Officer (Scotland)
Animal Health and Welfare Division,
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate,
The Scottish Government
Saughton House, Spur P, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD

<Redacted>



EMAIL 56

From: Voas S (Sheila) <<Redacted>>

Sent: 17 October 2018 15:16

To: <Redacted>

Cc: <Redacted>

Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Ok I will try to organise train for this evening.

Sheila

Sheila M Voas, BVM&S, MRCVS

Chief Veterinary Officer (Scotland)
Animal Health and Welfare Division,
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate,
The Scottish Government
Saughton House, Spur P, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD

Phone <Redacted>

Fax <Redacted>

Mobile <Redacted>
email: <Redacted>



From: Boddice L (Luke)
Sent: 17 October 2018 15:09
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Sheila – think you might need to come back north as we will no doubt need to deploy you for cameras once this goes live.

From: Voas S (Sheila)
Sent: 17 October 2018 14:57
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

I'm in London – Defra Noble House - until about 4pm. Then plan is travelling to Hinckley Leics for British Cattle Vet Assoc conference and would be there until Saturday. Am sharing a car (not the driver) with the other CVOs from London to Hinckley and train home Saturday afternoon. However my plans can be flexible and if needed I can return to Scotland, in the time it takes to get a train

S

Sheila M Voas, BVM&S, MRCVS
Chief Veterinary Officer (Scotland)
Animal Health and Welfare Division,
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate,
The Scottish Government
Saughton House, Spur P, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD

Phone <Redacted>
Fax <Redacted>
Mobile <Redacted>
email: <Redacted>



From: Boddice L (Luke)
Sent: 17 October 2018 14:52
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Sheila,

Can I just check your location/availability etc. As agreed previously, you were to front any initial bid requests.

Thanks
Luke

From: Boddice L (Luke)
Sent: 17 October 2018 14:43
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Thanks Nick. Will make sure your amended version issues.

I've just spoken to FSS about their line. They are chasing at their end.

From: Ambrose N (Nick) Dr
Sent: 17 October 2018 14:41
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Luke,
One small suggested deletion, just so we are not seen to be acting after confirmation: movement restrictions were put on earlier, when we had suspicion of disease.

Also – have you heard from FSS? Do you us to remind them or will you do so?
Nick

From: Boddice L (Luke)
Sent: 17 October 2018 14:32
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Copy of the release below amended to reflect classical. I will hold off issuing until Sheila has written confirmation.

Chasing FSS for the quote just now

BSE
Disease confirmed in Aberdeenshire

A case of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) has been confirmed on a farm in Aberdeenshire.

In line with the disease prevention response plan, precautionary movement restrictions have ~~now~~ been put in place at the farm, while further investigations to identify the origin of the disease occur.

This is standard procedure for a confirmed case of Classical BSE, which does not represent a threat to human health.

Rural Economy Secretary Fergus Ewing said:

“Following confirmation of a case of classical BSE in Aberdeenshire, I have activated the Scottish Government’s response plan to protect our valuable farming industry, including establishing a precautionary movement ban being placed on the farm.

“While it is important to stress that this is standard procedure until we have a clear understanding of the diseases origin, this is further proof that our surveillance system for detecting this type of disease is working. Be assured that the Scottish Government and its partners stand ready to respond to any further confirmed cases of the disease in Scotland.”

Chief Veterinary Officer Sheila Voas said:

“While it is too early to tell where the disease came from in this case, its detection is proof that our surveillance system is doing its job. We are working closely with the Animal and Plant Health Agency to answer this question, and in the meantime, I would urge any farmer who has concerns to immediately seek veterinary advice.

INSERT QUOTE FROM FSS STRESSING EXPERT ADVICE IS NO RISK TO HUMAN HEALTH OR FOOD CHAIN

Background

The Animal Health Agency (APHA) is investigating the source of the outbreak.

The case was identified as a result of strict control measures we have in place. It did not enter the human food chain and Food Standards Scotland have confirmed there is no risk to human health as a result of this isolated case.

All animals over four years of age that die on farm are routinely tested for BSE under our comprehensive surveillance system. Whilst the disease is not directly transmitted from animal to animal, its cohorts, including offspring, have been traced and isolated, and will be destroyed in line with EU requirements.

In addition to the measures we have in place for fallen stock and animal feed, there is a strict control regime to protect consumers. This includes the removal of specified risk material such as the spinal column, brain and skull from carcasses.

From: Waite S (Sheelagh) **On Behalf Of** Voas S (Sheila)

Sent: 17 October 2018 14:26

To: <Redacted>

Cc: <Redacted>

Subject: BSE - positive test results

Importance: High

All,

I have just received telephone notification from the TSE national reference laboratory at Weybridge that our suspect BSE in a 5 year old cow from Aberdeenshire has given positive test results for classical BSE. This is disappointing but we are not unique - both France and Ireland lost their statuses soon after getting them. I have been discussing with Comms colleagues and we are ready to go with communications however I would prefer to wait until I have written confirmation of the results. This should happen within the next hour or so. I am happy to discuss with anyone who wishes more information but I am in London so would need a little bit of notice.

Sheila M Voas, BVM&S, MRCVS, ARAgS

Chief Veterinary Officer (Scotland)
Animal Health and Welfare Division,
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate,
The Scottish Government
Saughton House, Spur P, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD

Phone <Redacted>
Fax <Redacted>
Mobile <Redacted>
email: <Redacted>

EMAIL 57

From: Voas S (Sheila) <Redacted>
Sent: 17 October 2018 15:23
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

That's fine. I'm in London but will probably head back on train early evening on comms advice rather than go on to BCVA so will
Be able to take calls for a while. Is Ms G happy to call me?

Sheila M Voas, BVM&S, MRCVS

Chief Veterinary Officer (Scotland)
Animal Health and Welfare Division,
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate,
The Scottish Government
Saughton House, Spur P, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD

Phone <Redacted>
Fax <Redacted>
Mobile <Redacted>
email: <Redacted>



From: Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment

Sent: 17 October 2018 15:19

To: <Redacted>

Cc: <Redacted>

Subject: Re: BSE - positive test results

Sheila

Ms Gougeon has noted the update and would welcome a call with you. Her signal is patchy at the moment so it may be a while before she's able to call.

Thanks

Mariella

<Redacted>

From: Voas S (Sheila)

Sent: Wednesday, 17 October 2018 15:15

To: <Redacted>

Cc: <Redacted>

Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Thanks Kevin,

Sam in my team has already worked up a Q and A which is with comms and ready to be put on website when we go live with the news release.

We AHWD are planning a stakeholder telecom to ensure key players are aware. Once we have written results I would propose a more formal submission of them to include recipients of the original submission plus FM, DFM, Health, FSS etc.

We will also work up a SCANCE note as suggested for next weeks meeting.

Can you confirm that this is acceptable to Cab Sec and that we should put our existing plans in action once written results received or if he wants to discuss further first.

Sheila M Voas, BVM&S, MRCVS

Chief Veterinary Officer (Scotland)

Animal Health and Welfare Division,

Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate,

The Scottish Government

Saughton House, Spur P, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD

Phone <Redacted>

Fax <Redacted>

Mobile <Redacted>
email: <Redacted>



From: Veitch K (Kevin) **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy
Sent: 17 October 2018 15:08
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Sheila

Mr Ewing has noted this disappointing news.

He thinks that many questions will obviously be asked and ask that Q&A will need to be worked up. He also wants to consider stakeholder engagement and providing an update to FM and DFM.

We will also need a SCANCE note for Cabinet on Tuesday.

Kind regards

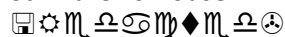
Kevin Veitch

Private Secretary

Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy

2N.11

St Andrews House



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From: Voas S (Sheila)
Sent: 17 October 2018 14:38
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Although we have emailed Cab Sec and the Minister both are on leave this week so suggest that we also await confirmation from Private Office that they are content before release it. However still waiting written lab confirmation of the results.

Sheila M Voas, BVM&S, MRCVS
Chief Veterinary Officer (Scotland)

Animal Health and Welfare Division,
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate,
The Scottish Government
Saughton House, Spur P, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD
Phone <Redacted>
Fax <Redacted>
Mobile <Redacted>
email: <Redacted>



From: Boddice L (Luke)
Sent: 17 October 2018 14:32
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

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From: Waite S (Sheelagh) **On Behalf Of** Voas S (Sheila)

Sent: 17 October 2018 14:26

To: <Redacted>

Cc: <Redacted>

Subject: BSE - positive test results

Importance: High

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Sheila M Voas, BVM&S, MRCVS, ARAgS

Chief Veterinary Officer (Scotland)

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Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate,

The Scottish Government

Saughton House, Spur P, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD

Phone <Redacted>

Fax <Redacted>

Mobile <Redacted>

email: <Redacted>

EMAIL 58

From: Boddice L (Luke) <<Redacted>
Sent: 17 October 2018 15:26
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Ok, thanks. Kate will want to see it before it goes up, I'd imagine.

From: Murdoch I J (Ian)
Sent: 17 October 2018 15:26
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Luke/Sheila

Still finalising the Q&A, should be done later this afternoon.

Ian

From: Voas S (Sheila)
Sent: 17 October 2018 15:21
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Maybe still with Nick for checking then?

Sheila M Voas, BVM&S, MRCVS
Chief Veterinary Officer (Scotland)
Animal Health and Welfare Division,
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate,
The Scottish Government
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Phone <Redacted>
Fax <Redacted>
Mobile <Redacted>
email: <Redacted>



From: Boddice L (Luke)
Sent: 17 October 2018 15:19
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Comms not seen the Q&A, unless you mean CommsARE

From: Voas S (Sheila)
Sent: 17 October 2018 15:16
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Thanks Kevin,

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Phone <Redacted>
Fax <Redacted>
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From: Veitch K (Kevin) **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy
Sent: 17 October 2018 15:08
To: <Redacted>

Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

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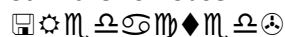
Kind regards

Private Secretary

Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy

2N.11

St Andrews House



All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

From: Voas S (Sheila)

Sent: 17 October 2018 14:38

To: <Redacted>

Cc: <Redacted>

Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Although we have emailed Cab Sec and the Minister both are on leave this week so suggest that we also await confirmation from Private Office that they are content before release it. However still waiting written lab confirmation of the results.

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Cc: <Redacted>
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Cc: <Redacted>

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Phone <Redacted>

Fax <Redacted>

Mobile <Redacted>

email: <Redacted>

EMAIL 57

From: Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment <Redacted>

Sent: 17 October 2018 15:39

To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: Re: BSE - positive test results

Yes, Ms Gougeon will call you when she's got a signal

Mariella
<Redacted>

From: Voas S (Sheila)
Sent: Wednesday, 17 October 2018 15:22
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

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Phone <Redacted>
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email: voas.s@scotland.nhs.uk



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Phone <Redacted>

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email: <Redacted>

EMAIL 59

From: Waite S (Sheelagh) <Redacted> **On Behalf Of** Voas S (Sheila)

Sent: 17 October 2018 16:02

To: <Redacted>

Cc: <Redacted>

Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Please note that Sheila is now booked on the 1700 Kings X to Edinburgh train and is happy to speak with Ms Gougeon whenever she gets a signal (although obviously this will depend on Sheila's signal as well). Thanks very much.

Sheelagh Waite

Animal Health and Welfare Division

Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate

The Scottish Government

P Spur – Saughton House

Broomhouse Drive

EDINBURGH

EH11 3XD

Tel: <Redacted>

Fax: <Redacted>

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2N.11

St Andrews House

☎ ⚙ ⌚ 📧 📁 💎 📧 📁 📧

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Cc: <Redacted>
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Mobile <Redacted>

email: <Redacted>

EMAIL 60

From: Voas S (Sheila) <Redacted>
Sent: 17 October 2018 16:21
To: <Redacted>
Subject: Re: BSE - positive test results

Hope she hasn't changed plans on our account. I'm heading to Kings Cross so will be back in the for it to go out tomorrow!

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: Conlan F (Frances)
Sent: Wednesday, 17 October 2018 16:18
To: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Sheila

I know that you have been in touch with Elinor, as have I. She is flying back today.

Thanks

Frances Conlan
Head of Strategic and People Support
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate
<Redacted>

From: Voas S (Sheila)
Sent: 17 October 2018 15:16
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Ok I will try to organise train for this evening.

Sheila

Sheila M Voas, BVM&S, MRCVS
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Saughton House, Spur P, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD
Phone <Redacted>
Fax <Redacted>
Mobile <Redacted>
email: <Redacted>



From: Boddice L (Luke)
Sent: 17 October 2018 15:09
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Sheila – think you might need to come back north as we will no doubt need to deploy you for cameras once this goes live.

From: Voas S (Sheila)
Sent: 17 October 2018 14:57
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

I'm in London – Defra Noble House - until about 4pm. Then plan is travelling to Hinckley Leics for British Cattle Vet Assoc conference and would be there until Saturday. Am sharing a car (not the driver) with the other CVOs from London to Hinckley and train home Saturday afternoon. However my plans can be flexible and if needed I can return to Scotland, in the time it takes to get a train

S

Sheila M Voas, BVM&S, MRCVS

Chief Veterinary Officer (Scotland)
Animal Health and Welfare Division,
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate,
The Scottish Government
Saughton House, Spur P, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD
Phone <Redacted>
Fax <Redacted>
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email: <Redacted>



From: Boddice L (Luke)
Sent: 17 October 2018 14:52
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Sheila,

Can I just check your location/availability etc. As agreed previously, you were to front any initial bid requests.

Thanks
Luke

From: Boddice L (Luke)
Sent: 17 October 2018 14:43
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Thanks Nick. Will make sure your amended version issues.

I've just spoken to FSS about their line. They are chasing at their end.

From: Ambrose N (Nick) Dr
Sent: 17 October 2018 14:41
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Luke,
One small suggested deletion, just so we are not seen to be acting after confirmation: movement restrictions were put on earlier, when we had suspicion of disease.

Also – have you heard from FSS? Do you us to remind them or will you do so?
Nick

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Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate,
The Scottish Government
Saughton House, Spur P, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD
Phone <Redacted>
Fax <Redacted>
Mobile <Redacted>
email: <Redacted>

EMAIL 61

From: Boddice L (Luke) <<Redacted>>
Sent: 17 October 2018 16:22
To: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

OK, thanks. I'll try and get hold of Nick or Kate.

Given the time, I would suggest we hold until tomorrow morning and I brief DEFRA to that effect.

From: Voas S (Sheila)
Sent: 17 October 2018 16:19
To: <Redacted>
Subject: Re: BSE - positive test results

Happy to wait till tomorrow.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: Boddice L (Luke)
Sent: Wednesday, 17 October 2018 15:32
To: Ambrose N (Nick) Dr; Voas S (Sheila)
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Has Kate spoken to you? She was wondering down the phone to me about holding any announcement until tomorrow

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Sent: 17 October 2018 15:31
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

We talked about it the draft with CommsARE. Ian and I are looking at it just now.
N

From: Voas S (Sheila)
Sent: 17 October 2018 15:21
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted> <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Maybe still with Nick for checking then?

Sheila M Voas, BVM&S, MRCVS
Chief Veterinary Officer (Scotland)
Animal Health and Welfare Division,
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate,
The Scottish Government
Saughton House, Spur P, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD
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To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

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Sent: 17 October 2018 15:16
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted> **Subject:** RE: BSE - positive test results

Thanks Kevin,

Sam in my team has already worked up a Q and A which is with comms and ready to be put on website when we go live with the news release.

We AHWD are planning a stakeholder telecom to ensure key players are aware. Once we have written results I would propose a more formal submission of them to include recipients of the original submission plus FM, DFM, Health, FSS etc.

We will also work up a SCANCE note as suggested for next weeks meeting.

Can you confirm that this is acceptable to Cab Sec and that we should put our existing plans in action once written results received or if he wants to discuss further first.

Sheila M Voas, BVM&S, MRCVS

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Animal Health and Welfare Division,
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From: Veitch K (Kevin) **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy

Sent: 17 October 2018 15:08

To: <Redacted>

Cc: <Redacted>

Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Sheila

Mr Ewing has noted this disappointing news.

He thinks that many questions will obviously be asked and ask that Q&A will need to be worked up. He also wants to consider stakeholder engagement and providing an update to FM and DFM.

We will also need a SCANCE note for Cabinet on Tuesday.

Kind regards

Chasing FSS for the quote just now

BSE

Disease confirmed in Aberdeenshire

A case of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) has been confirmed on a farm in Aberdeenshire.

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Rural Economy Secretary Fergus Ewing said:

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In addition to the measures we have in place for fallen stock and animal feed, there is a strict control regime to protect consumers. This includes the removal of specified risk material such as the spinal column, brain and skull from carcasses.

From: Waite S (Sheelagh) **On Behalf Of** Voas S (Sheila)

Sent: 17 October 2018 14:26

To: <Redacted>

Cc: <Redacted>

Subject: BSE - positive test results

Importance: High

All,

I have just received telephone notification from the TSE national reference laboratory at Weybridge that our suspect BSE in a 5 year old cow from Aberdeenshire has given positive test results for classical BSE. This is disappointing but we are not unique - both France and Ireland lost their statuses soon after getting them. I have been discussing with Comms colleagues and we are ready to go with communications however I would prefer to wait until I have written confirmation of the results. This should happen within the next hour or so. I am happy to discuss with anyone who wishes more information but I am in London so would need a little bit of notice.

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Phone <Redacted>

Fax <Redacted>

Mobile <Redacted>

email: <Redacted>

EMAIL 62

From: Higgins K (Kate) <Redacted>

Sent: 17 October 2018 16:34

To: <Redacted>

Cc: <Redacted>

Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

grand

Kate Higgins

Special Advisor to the First Minister

Rural Economy and Connectivity

<Redacted>/<Redacted>

My working hours are:

Mon, Tues, Thurs 9.30 – 4.30; Wed 8.30 -4.30

Fri 9 – 5 and working from home, contactable on <Redacted>

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From: Voas S (Sheila)
Sent: 17 October 2018 16:18
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: Re: BSE - positive test results

I'm happy to wait till tomorrow - and no written confirmation from lab yet. Just didn't want to be seen to be delaying and risk SG criticism if that was possible.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: Higgins K (Kate)
Sent: Wednesday, 17 October 2018 15:29
To: Voas S (Sheila)
Cc: Ambrose N (Nick) Dr
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Sorry.... But I feel a whole lot safer dealing with this with you close by (pathetic as that sounds!!)

Nick can you give me a call please when you are free –just about timing of releases etc

Kate Higgins
Special Advisor to the First Minister
Rural Economy and Connectivity
<Redacted>/<Redacted>

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From: Voas S (Sheila)
Sent: 17 October 2018 15:16
To: <Redacted>**Cc:** <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Ok I will try to organise train for this evening.

Sheila

Sheila M Voas, BVM&S, MRCVS
Chief Veterinary Officer (Scotland)
Animal Health and Welfare Division,
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate,

The Scottish Government
Saughton House, Spur P, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD
Phone <Redacted>
Fax <Redacted>
Mobile <Redacted>
email: <Redacted>



From: Boddice L (Luke)
Sent: 17 October 2018 15:09
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Sheila – think you might need to come back north as we will no doubt need to deploy you for cameras once this goes live.

From: Voas S (Sheila)
Sent: 17 October 2018 14:57
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

I'm in London – Defra Noble House - until about 4pm. Then plan is travelling to Hinckley Leics for British Cattle Vet Assoc conference and would be there until Saturday. Am sharing a car (not the driver) with the other CVOs from London to Hinckley and train home Saturday afternoon. However my plans can be flexible and if needed I can return to Scotland, in the time it takes to get a train

S

Sheila M Voas, BVM&S, MRCVS
Chief Veterinary Officer (Scotland)
Animal Health and Welfare Division,
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate,
The Scottish Government
Saughton House, Spur P, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD
Phone <Redacted>
Fax <Redacted>
Mobile <Redacted>
email: <Redacted>



From: Boddice L (Luke)
Sent: 17 October 2018 14:52
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Sheila,

Can I just check your location/availability etc. As agreed previously, you were to front any initial bid requests.

Thanks
Luke

From: Boddice L (Luke)
Sent: 17 October 2018 14:43
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Thanks Nick. Will make sure your amended version issues.

I've just spoken to FSS about their line. They are chasing at their end.

From: Ambrose N (Nick) Dr
Sent: 17 October 2018 14:41
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Luke,

One small suggested deletion, just so we are not seen to be acting after confirmation: movement restrictions were put on earlier, when we had suspicion of disease.

Also – have you heard from FSS? Do you us to remind them or will you do so?
Nick

From: Boddice L (Luke)
Sent: 17 October 2018 14:32
To: <Redacted>

Cc: <Redacted>

Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Copy of the release below amended to reflect classical. I will hold off issuing until Sheila has written confirmation.

Chasing FSS for the quote just now

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From: Waite S (Sheelagh) **On Behalf Of** Voas S (Sheila)

Sent: 17 October 2018 14:26

To: <Redacted>

Cc: <Redacted>

Subject: BSE - positive test results

Importance: High

All,

I have just received telephone notification from the TSE national reference laboratory at Weybridge that our suspect BSE in a 5 year old cow from Aberdeenshire has given positive test results for classical BSE. This is disappointing but we are not unique - both France and Ireland lost their statuses soon after getting them. I have been discussing with Comms colleagues and we are ready to go with communications however I would prefer to wait until I have written confirmation of the results. This should happen within the next hour or so. I am happy to discuss with anyone who wishes more information but I am in London so would need a little bit of notice.

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Phone <Redacted>

Fax <Redacted>

Mobile <Redacted>

email: [<Redacted>](mailto:Sheila.Voas@scot.nhs.uk)

EMAIL 63

From: Boddice L (Luke) <Redacted>

Sent: 17 October 2018 16:48

To: <Redacted>

Cc: <Redacted>

Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Sounds fine to me.

Assuming we get written confirmation tonight/first thing tomorrow, I would propose the following course of action for tomorrow. We go public via NR no later than 1100. Before then, Ms Gougeon calls local MSP/MP and relevant opposition spokespeople to inform them of what's about to happen. Written question is lodged and answered at some point tomorrow.

Relevant stakeholders and DEFRA comms are also informed shortly before we go 'live'.

Sheila does any media bids in the first instance. I am happy to support, as required/desired.

No doubt speak more tomorrow.

From: Ambrose N (Nick) Dr
Sent: 17 October 2018 16:33
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Yes. Just Finished talking to Kate.

She advises for better timing, availability of interviewees, freshness of staff, readiness of material it would be better to wait until tomorrow. I can see the point and agree if you are both content that there are no/limited risks.

Kate also suggests an inspired PQ tomorrow, at the same time as the PR.

Martyn/Sheila – kate, also wanted assurance that the farmer and family are informed and will not see this on the news/twitter – Is this a role for APHA as soon as we have written report from Weybridge.

Nick

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Sent: 17 October 2018 16:19
To: <Redacted>
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Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

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From: Voas S (Sheila)
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To: <Redacted>
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Phone <Redacted>Fax <Redacted>
Mobile <Redacted>
email: <Redacted>

EMAIL 64

From: Voas S (Sheila) <Redacted>
Sent: 17 October 2018 16:55
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: Re: BSE - positive test results

OK I'm now on train heading home. Happy for update to go but as yet we still don't have written results so should be caveatted as such.
Sheila

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: Higgins K (Kate)
Sent: Wednesday, 17 October 2018 16:52
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

All

It is vital that we get a succinct update to FM and DfM this evening – Nick and I have discussed, no need to run this past spads before sending up.

We have all discussed and – I think – agreed that releasing this unwelcome news in an orderly way is preferable to it going out after hours this evening – that allows everyone who needs to be contacted and advised before the media release to be so.

So – and please add if I've missed anything or anyone from suggested initial handling.

Comms advice is that the latest we should think about releasing the news tomorrow would be 11am. Preference at this stage is for Sheila as CVO to be spokesperson for any interview – hope that is ok with you Sheila! This to be reviewed as things develop (or not)

That would give us time to do parliamentary handling. Suggestion is that we seek dispensation to get a GIQ asked and answered on the same day. I will draft something to start off this evening and circulate. The GIQ answer should make clear our offer to provide additional info to Parliament next week as and when appropriate ie a topical question to act as a mini statement or a statement

Also suggested that Ms Gougeon put in calls to the local MSP and MP around 10am tomorrow morning and also writes to the REC committee to coincide with the GIQ. Who are the relevant Ministers in UKG and elsewhere? Is it appropriate for either Ms Gougeon or Mr Ewing to contact them tomorrow morning to provide an update or will the respective CVOs do that? My instinct is the former is more respectful?

Stakeholders – a list to be drawn up and divided up among appropriate senior officials for calls and emails to be sent just ahead of media release going out. Either Ms Gougeon or Mr Ewing to contact <Redacted>.

Once release issues, can we have some social media messages for issue from Greener account – do we need someone to be actively engaging through that account with people who get in touch (with relevant concerns etc)? Can these be circulated so we can arrange for them to issue from personal accounts with minimal tweaking. It might be a useful rule of thumb for the next wee while for all tweeters and Fbers to take their lead from official Greener Scotland messaging ie wait until you see something official coming out before adding a message.

Can we make sure we have webpage links set up for people to find more info? Do we need a helpline set up? (or at least thinking about that....)

Anything I've missed?

Kate

Kate Higgins
Special Advisor to the First Minister
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<Redacted>/<Redacted>

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my actions protect antibiotics
 **ANTIBIOTIC GUARDIAN**
UK SUPPORT FOR EUROPEAN ANTIBIOTIC AWARENESS DAY
 join me at antibioticguardian.com

 **Mental Health & Wellbeing Network**
 Your health in mind

Sheila

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Kind regards

Private Secretary
Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy
2N.11

St Andrews House

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215

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Importance: High

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I have just received telephone notification from the TSE national reference laboratory at Weybridge that our suspect BSE in a 5 year old cow from Aberdeenshire has given positive test results for classical BSE. This is disappointing but we are not unique - both France and Ireland lost their statuses soon after getting them. I have been discussing with Comms colleagues and we are ready to go with communications however I would prefer to wait until I have written confirmation of the results. This should happen within the next hour or so. I am happy to discuss with anyone who wishes more information but I am in London so would need a little bit of notice.

Sheila M Voas, BVM&S, MRCVS, ARAgS

Chief Veterinary Officer (Scotland)
Animal Health and Welfare Division,
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate,
The Scottish Government
Saughton House, Spur P, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD
Phone <Redacted>
Fax <Redacted>
Mobile <Redacted>
email: <Redacted>

EMAIL 65

From: Voas S (Sheila) <Redacted>
Sent: 17 October 2018 16:58
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: Re: BSE - positive test results

Yes it's for APHA to tell farmer but I haven't told them yet as no written confirmation.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: Ambrose N (Nick) Dr
Sent: Wednesday, 17 October 2018 16:33
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Yes. Just Finished talking to Kate.

She advises for better timing, availability of interviewees, freshness of staff, readiness of material it would be better to wait until tomorrow. I can see the point and agree if you are both content that there are no/limited risks.

Kate also suggests an inspired PQ tomorrow, at the same time as the PR.

Martyn/Sheila – Kate, also wanted assurance that the farmer and family are informed and will not see this on the news/twitter – Is this a role for APHA as soon as we have written report from Weybridge.

Nick

From: Voas S (Sheila)
Sent: 17 October 2018 16:19
To: <Redacted>
Subject: Re: BSE - positive test results

Happy to wait till tomorrow.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: Boddice L (Luke)
Sent: Wednesday, 17 October 2018 15:32

To: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Has Kate spoken to you? She was wondering down the phone to me about holding any announcement until tomorrow

From: Ambrose N (Nick) Dr
Sent: 17 October 2018 15:31
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

We talked about it the draft with CommsARE. Ian and I are looking at it just now.
N

From: Voas S (Sheila)
Sent: 17 October 2018 15:21
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Maybe still with Nick for checking then?

Sheila M Voas, BVM&S, MRCVS
Chief Veterinary Officer (Scotland)
Animal Health and Welfare Division,
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate,
The Scottish Government
Saughton House, Spur P, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD
Phone <Redacted>
Fax <Redacted>
Mobile <Redacted>
email: <Redacted>



From: Boddice L (Luke)
Sent: 17 October 2018 15:19
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Comms not seen the Q&A, unless you mean CommsARE

From: Voas S (Sheila)
Sent: 17 October 2018 15:16
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Thanks Kevin,

Sam in my team has already worked up a Q and A which is with comms and ready to be put on website when we go live with the news release.

We AHWD are planning a stakeholder telecom to ensure key players are aware.
Once we have written results I would propose a more formal submission of them to include recipients of the original submission plus FM, DFM, Health, FSS etc.

We will also work up a SCANCE note as suggested for next weeks meeting.

Can you confirm that this is acceptable to Cab Sec and that we should put our existing plans in action once written results received or if he wants to discuss further first.

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From: Veitch K (Kevin) **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy
Sent: 17 October 2018 15:08
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Sheila

Mr Ewing has noted this disappointing news.

He thinks that many questions will obviously be asked and ask that Q&A will need to be worked up.
He also wants to consider stakeholder engagement and providing an update to FM and DFM.

Cc: <Redacted>

Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Copy of the release below amended to reflect classical. I will hold off issuing until Sheila has written confirmation.

Chasing FSS for the quote just now

BSE

Disease confirmed in Aberdeenshire

A case of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) has been confirmed on a farm in Aberdeenshire.

In line with the disease prevention response plan, precautionary movement restrictions have now been put in place at the farm, while further investigations to identify the origin of the disease occur.

This is standard procedure for a confirmed case of Classical BSE, which does not represent a threat to human health.

Rural Economy Secretary Fergus Ewing said:

“Following confirmation of a case of classical BSE in Aberdeenshire, I have activated the Scottish Government’s response plan to protect our valuable farming industry, including establishing a precautionary movement ban being placed on the farm.

“While it is important to stress that this is standard procedure until we have a clear understanding of the diseases origin, this is further proof that our surveillance system for detecting this type of disease is working. Be assured that the Scottish Government and its partners stand ready to respond to any further confirmed cases of the disease in Scotland.”

Chief Veterinary Officer Sheila Voas said:

“While it is too early to tell where the disease came from in this case, its detection is proof that our surveillance system is doing its job. We are working closely with the Animal and Plant Health Agency to answer this question, and in the meantime, I would urge any farmer who has concerns to immediately seek veterinary advice.

INSERT QUOTE FROM FSS STRESSING EXPERT ADVICE IS NO RISK TO HUMAN HEALTH OR FOOD CHAIN

Background

The Animal Health Agency (APHA) is investigating the source of the outbreak.

The case was identified as a result of strict control measures we have in place. It did not enter the human food chain and Food Standards Scotland have confirmed there is no risk to human health as a result of this isolated case.

All animals over four years of age that die on farm are routinely tested for BSE under our comprehensive surveillance system. Whilst the disease is not directly transmitted from animal to animal, its cohorts, including offspring, have been traced and isolated, and will be destroyed in line with EU requirements.

In addition to the measures we have in place for fallen stock and animal feed, there is a strict control regime to protect consumers. This includes the removal of specified risk material such as the spinal column, brain and skull from carcasses.

From: Waite S (Sheelagh) **On Behalf Of** Voas S (Sheila)

Sent: 17 October 2018 14:26

To: <Redacted>

Cc: <Redacted>

Subject: BSE - positive test results

Importance: High

All,

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The Scottish Government

Saughton House, Spur P, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD

Phone <Redacted>

Fax <Redacted>

Mobile <Redacted>

email: <Redacted>

EMAIL 66

From: Voas S (Sheila) <Redacted>

Sent: 17 October 2018 18:17

To: <Redacted>

Cc: <Redacted>

Subject: Re: BSE - positive test results

Sorry Kate just seen easier message - are you content we just update FM and DFM early tomorrow? For information APHA colleagues have just told me that the farmer concerned is "burying his mother" so am trying to clarify when we can tell him the results.

It never rains..... poor man.

S

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: Voas S (Sheila)
Sent: Wednesday, 17 October 2018 18:10
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: Re: BSE - positive test results

Thanks Kate all fine by me.

What we had been planning was to convene a stakeholder teleconference tomorrow about 10am assuming release at 10.30 or 11am, including NFUS (I gave <Redacted> the heads up about a suspect already so they could consider their own comms etc) so they all heard the same thing at the same time from me but if you prefer individual calls we can change that.

My team are all out of Saughton as there is a problem I. The boiler room that has set off the fire alarm and taken power out from West of Edinburgh so I may put a few headlines to FM and DFM from BlackBerry in advance of full update later / First thing tomorrow.

Colleagues in Defra Cvo) have offered to alert Lord Gardiner tomorrow to fit in with our timescales but happy for it to be Minister or Cab Sec if they wish. I just thought as on holiday they may prefer it to be at official level and more technical.

Are comms are looking at social media coverage and the Q and A for the website just needs cleared and added once colleagues can get back into laptops.

I sincerely hope we don't need a helpline. It shouldn't be the big deal but will depend on the press coverage.

S

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: Higgins K (Kate)
Sent: Wednesday, 17 October 2018 16:52
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted> **Subject:** RE: BSE - positive test results

All

It is vital that we get a succinct update to FM and DfM this evening – Nick and I have discussed, no need to run this past spads before sending up.

We have all discussed and – I think – agreed that releasing this unwelcome news in an orderly way is preferable to it going out after hours this evening – that allows everyone who needs to be contacted and advised before the media release to be so.

So – and please add if I've missed anything or anyone from suggested initial handling.

Comms advice is that the latest we should think about releasing the news tomorrow would be 11am. Preference at this stage is for Sheila as CVO to be spokesperson for any interview – hope that is ok with you Sheila! This to be reviewed as things develop (or not)

That would give us time to do parliamentary handling. Suggestion is that we seek dispensation to get a GIQ asked and answered on the same day. I will draft something to start off this evening and circulate. The GIQ answer should make clear our offer to provide additional info to Parliament next week as and when appropriate ie a topical question to act as a mini statement or a statement

Also suggested that Ms Gougeon put in calls to the local MSP and MP around 10am tomorrow morning and also writes to the REC committee to coincide with the GIQ. Who are the relevant Ministers in UKG and elsewhere? Is it appropriate for either Ms Gougeon or Mr Ewing to contact them tomorrow morning to provide an update or will the respective CVOs do that? My instinct is the former is more respectful?

Stakeholders – a list to be drawn up and divided up among appropriate senior officials for calls and emails to be sent just ahead of media release going out. Either Ms Gougeon or Mr Ewing to contact <Redacted>.

Once release issues, can we have some social media messages for issue from Greener account – do we need someone to be actively engaging through that account with people who get in touch (with relevant concerns etc)? Can these be circulated so we can arrange for them to issue from personal accounts with minimal tweaking. It might be a useful rule of thumb for the next wee while for all tweeters and FBers to take their lead from official Greener Scotland messaging ie wait until you see something official coming out before adding a message.

Can we make sure we have webpage links set up for people to find more info? Do we need a helpline set up? (or at least thinking about that....)

Anything I've missed?

Kate

Kate Higgins
Special Advisor to the First Minister
Rural Economy and Connectivity
<Redacted>/<Redacted>

My working hours are:
Mon, Tues, Thurs 9.30 – 4.30; Wed 8.30 -4.30
Fri 9 – 5 and working from home, contactable on <Redacted>

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From: Veitch K (Kevin) **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy
Sent: 17 October 2018 16:01
To: <Redacted>

Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

I'll defer to Kate on the urgency of updating FM and DFM, although I expect that will be a priority.

Kevin Veitch

Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy

St Andrews House

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All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

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Sent: 17 October 2018 15:16

Cc: <Redacted>

Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

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Can you confirm that this is acceptable to Cab Sec and that we should put our existing plans in action once written results received or if he wants to discuss further first.

Sheila M Voas, BVM&S, MRCVS

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Phone <Redacted>

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Sent: 17 October 2018 15:08
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
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Sheila

Mr Ewing has noted this disappointing news.

He thinks that many questions will obviously be asked and ask that Q&A will need to be worked up. He also wants to consider stakeholder engagement and providing an update to FM and DFM.

We will also need a SCANCE note for Cabinet on Tuesday.

Kind regards
Kevin Veitch
Private Secretary
Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy
2N.11

St Andrews House

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From: Voas S (Sheila)
Sent: 17 October 2018 14:38
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Although we have emailed Cab Sec and the Minister both are on leave this week so suggest that we also await confirmation from Private Office that they are content before release it. However still waiting written lab confirmation of the results.

Sheila M Voas, BVM&S, MRCVS

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Animal Health and Welfare Division,
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The Scottish Government
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Cc: <Redacted>
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From: Waite S (Sheelagh) **On Behalf Of** Voas S (Sheila)

Sent: 17 October 2018 14:26

To: <Redacted>

Cc: <Redacted>

Subject: BSE - positive test results

Importance: High

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Phone <Redacted>
Fax <Redacted>
Mobile <Redacted>
email: <Redacted>

EMAIL 67

From: Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy <<Redacted>>
Sent: 17 October 2018 18:42
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Kate, Sheila

Mr Ewing has noted and is content with this approach.

Thanks

Kevin Veitch
Private Secretary
<Redacted>

From: "Higgins K (Kate)" <Redacted> **Sent:** 17 Oct 2018 18:04
To: <Redacted>
Cc: "<Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

And with earlier email re caveating – I would wait in fact for the update to go based on the written report (as long as APHA have not briefed UK Ministers...) so tomorrow morning for update is fine

Kate Higgins
Special Advisor to the First Minister
Rural Economy and Connectivity
<Redacted>/<Redacted>

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From: Higgins K (Kate)
Sent: 17 October 2018 17:59
To: <Redacted>

Cc: <Redacted>

Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

agreed

Kate Higgins

Special Advisor to the First Minister

Rural Economy and Connectivity

<Redacted>/<Redacted>

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From: Voas S (Sheila)

Sent: 17 October 2018 17:46

To: <Redacted>

Cc: <Redacted>

Subject: Re: BSE - positive test results

OK. Can you go home rather than hang about waiting? I could do a very brief update for FM and DFM by BlackBerry tonight and we can do the rest early in the morning?

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: Ambrose N (Nick) Dr

Sent: Wednesday, 17 October 2018 17:35

To: <Redacted>

Cc: <Redacted>

Subject: Re: BSE - positive test results

We have a fire alarm at saughton House. 30 mins outside so far, may be sometime yet. We have been told possibly an hour so the update will be late.

Nick

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: Voas S (Sheila)

Sent: Wednesday, 17 October 2018 17:00

To: <Redacted>

Cc: <Redacted>

Subject: Re: BSE - positive test results

I'm now on a train back to edinburgh so not ideal to talk. As we don't plan to release until morning now perhaps we could do either after back in edinburgh (10pm) or tomorrow am.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment

Sent: Wednesday, 17 October 2018 15:38

To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: Re: BSE - positive test results

Yes, Ms Gougeon will call you when she's got a signal

Mariella
<Redacted>

From: Voas S (Sheila)
Sent: Wednesday, 17 October 2018 15:22
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

That's fine. I'm in London but will probably head back on train early evening on comms advice rather than go on to BCVA so will

Be able to take calls for a while. Is Ms G happy to call me?

Sheila M Voas, BVM&S, MRCVS

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Phone <Redacted>
Fax <Redacted>
Mobile <Redacted>
email: <Redacted>



From: Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment
Sent: 17 October 2018 15:19
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: Re: BSE - positive test results

Sheila

Ms Gougeon has noted the update and would welcome a call with you. Her signal is patchy at the moment so it may be a while before she's able to call.

Thanks

Mariella
<Redacted>

From: Voas S (Sheila)
Sent: Wednesday, 17 October 2018 15:15
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Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

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Saughton House, Spur P, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD

Phone <Redacted>

Fax <Redacted>

Mobile <Redacted>

email: <Redacted>

EMAIL 68

From: Higgins K (Kate) <Redacted>

Sent: 17 October 2018 18:51

To: <Redacted>

Cc: <Redacted>

Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Just to confirm happy with tele conference approach

Kate Higgins

Special advisor to the First Minister

Rural Economy and Connectivity

<Redacted>

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Sent with BlackBerry Work

From: Voas S (Sheila) <Redacted>
Date: Wednesday, 17 Oct 2018, 6:10 pm
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: Re: BSE - positive test results

Thanks Kate all fine by me.

What we had been planning was to convene a stakeholder teleconference tomorrow about 10am assuming release at 10.30 or 11am, including NFUS (I gave <Redacted> the heads up about a suspect already so they could consider their own comms etc) so they all heard the same thing at the same time from me but if you prefer individual calls we can change that.

My team are all out of Saughton as there is a problem I. The boiler room that has set off the fire alarm and taken power out from West of Edinburgh so I may put a few headlines to FM and DFM from BlackBerry in advance of full update later / First thing tomorrow.

Colleagues in Defra Cvo) have offered to alert Lord Gardiner tomorrow to fit in with our timescales but happy for it to be Minister or Cab Sec if they wish. I just thought as on holiday they may prefer it to be at official level and more technical.

Are comms are looking at social media coverage and the Q and A for the website just needs cleared and added once colleagues can get back into laptops.

I sincerely hope we don't need a helpline. It shouldn't be the big deal but will depend on the press coverage.

S

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: Higgins K (Kate)
Sent: Wednesday, 17 October 2018 16:52
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

All

It is vital that we get a succinct update to FM and DfM this evening – Nick and I have discussed, no need to run this past spads before sending up.

We have all discussed and – I think – agreed that releasing this unwelcome news in an orderly way is preferable to it going out after hours this evening – that allows everyone who needs to be contacted and advised before the media release to be so.

So – and please add if I've missed anything or anyone from suggested initial handling.

Comms advice is that the latest we should think about releasing the news tomorrow would be 11am. Preference at this stage is for Sheila as CVO to be spokesperson for any interview – hope that is ok with you Sheila! This to be reviewed as things develop (or not)

That would give us time to do parliamentary handling. Suggestion is that we seek dispensation to get a GIQ asked and answered on the same day. I will draft something to start off this evening and circulate. The GIQ answer should make clear our offer to provide additional info to Parliament next week as and when appropriate ie a topical question to act as a mini statement or a statement

Also suggested that Ms Gougeon put in calls to the local MSP and MP around 10am tomorrow morning and also writes to the REC committee to coincide with the GIQ. Who are the relevant Ministers in UKG and elsewhere? Is it appropriate for either Ms Gougeon or Mr Ewing to contact them tomorrow morning to provide an update or will the respective CVOs do that? My instinct is the former is more respectful?

Stakeholders – a list to be drawn up and divided up among appropriate senior officials for calls and emails to be sent just ahead of media release going out. Either Ms Gougeon or Mr Ewing to contact <Redacted>.

Once release issues, can we have some social media messages for issue from Greener account – do we need someone to be actively engaging through that account with people who get in touch (with relevant concerns etc)? Can these be circulated so we can arrange for them to issue from personal accounts with minimal tweaking. It might be a useful rule of thumb for the next wee while for all tweeters and FBers to take their lead from official Greener Scotland messaging ie wait until you see something official coming out before adding a message.

Can we make sure we have webpage links set up for people to find more info? Do we need a helpline set up? (or at least thinking about that....)

Anything I've missed?

Kate

Kate Higgins
Special Advisor to the First Minister
Rural Economy and Connectivity
<Redacted>/<Redacted>

My working hours are:
Mon, Tues, Thurs 9.30 – 4.30; Wed 8.30 -4.30
Fri 9 – 5 and working from home, contactable on <Redacted>

Scottish Government

St Andrew's House, 2 Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

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From: Veitch K (Kevin) **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy

Sent: 17 October 2018 16:01

To: <Redacted>

Cc: <Redacted>

Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Sheila, agreed.

I'll defer to Kate on the urgency of updating FM and DFM, although I expect that will be a priority.

Thanks

Kevin Veitch

Private Secretary

Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy

2N.11

St Andrews House

☎ ⚙ ⌚ ⌕ ⌂ ⌚ ⌕ ⌂

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Cc: <Redacted>

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Once we have written results I would propose a more formal submission of them to include recipients of the original submission plus FM, DFM, Health, FSS etc.

We will also work up a SCANCE note as suggested for next weeks meeting.

Can you confirm that this is acceptable to Cab Sec and that we should put our existing plans in action once written results received or if he wants to discuss further first.

Chief Veterinary Officer (Scotland)
Animal Health and Welfare Division,
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate,
The Scottish Government
Saughton House, Spur P, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD
Phone <Redacted> Fax <Redacted>
Mobile <Redacted>
email: <Redacted>



Sheila

He thinks that many questions will obviously be asked and ask that Q&A will need to be worked up. He also wants to consider stakeholder engagement and providing an update to FM and DFM.

Kind regards

Kevin Veitch

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Saughton House, Spur P, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD

Phone <Redacted>

Fax <Redacted>

Mobile <Redacted>

email: <Redacted>



From: Boddice L (Luke)

Sent: 17 October 2018 14:32

To: <Redacted>

Cc: <Redacted>

Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

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Chasing FSS for the quote just now

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“While it is important to stress that this is standard procedure until we have a clear understanding of the diseases origin, this is further proof that our surveillance system for detecting this type of disease is working. Be assured that the Scottish Government and its partners stand ready to respond to any further confirmed cases of the disease in Scotland.”

Chief Veterinary Officer Sheila Voas said:

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In addition to the measures we have in place for fallen stock and animal feed, there is a strict control regime to protect consumers. This includes the removal of specified risk material such as the spinal column, brain and skull from carcasses.

From: Waite S (Sheelagh) **On Behalf Of** Voas S (Sheila)

Sent: 17 October 2018 14:26

To: <Redacted>

Cc: <Redacted>

Subject: BSE - positive test results

Importance: High

All,

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to go with communications however I would prefer to wait until I have written confirmation of the results. This should happen within the next hour or so. I am happy to discuss with anyone who wishes more information but I am in London so would need a little bit of notice.

Sheila M Voas, BVM&S, MRCVS, ARAgS

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The Scottish Government
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Phone <Redacted>
Fax <Redacted>
Mobile <Redacted>
email: <Redacted>

EMAIL 69

From: Voas S (Sheila) <Redacted>
Sent: 17 October 2018 15:16
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Ok I will try to organise train for this evening.

Sheila

Sheila M Voas, BVM&S, MRCVS

Chief Veterinary Officer (Scotland)
Animal Health and Welfare Division,
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate,
The Scottish Government
Saughton House, Spur P, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD

Phone <Redacted>
Fax <Redacted>
Mobile <Redacted>
email: <Redacted>



From: Boddice L (Luke)
Sent: 17 October 2018 15:09
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Sheila – think you might need to come back north as we will no doubt need to deploy you for cameras once this goes live.

From: Voas S (Sheila)
Sent: 17 October 2018 14:57
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

I'm in London – Defra Noble House - until about 4pm. Then plan is travelling to Hinckley Leics for British Cattle Vet Assoc conference and would be there until Saturday. Am sharing a car (not the driver) with the other CVOs from London to Hinckley and train home Saturday afternoon. However my plans can be flexible and if needed I can return to Scotland, in the time it takes to get a train

S

Sheila M Voas, BVM&S, MRCVS
Chief Veterinary Officer (Scotland)
Animal Health and Welfare Division,
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate,
The Scottish Government
Saughton House, Spur P, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD

Phone <Redacted>
Fax <Redacted>
Mobile <Redacted>
email: <Redacted>



From: Boddice L (Luke)
Sent: 17 October 2018 14:52
To: <Redacted>

Cc: <Redacted>

Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Sheila,

Can I just check your location/availability etc. As agreed previously, you were to front any initial bid requests.

Thanks

Luke

From: Boddice L (Luke)

Sent: 17 October 2018 14:43

To: <Redacted>

Cc: <Redacted>

Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Thanks Nick. Will make sure your amended version issues.

I've just spoken to FSS about their line. They are chasing at their end.

From: Ambrose N (Nick) Dr

Sent: 17 October 2018 14:41

To: <Redacted>

Cc: <Redacted>

Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Luke,

One small suggested deletion, just so we are not seen to be acting after confirmation: movement restrictions were put on earlier, when we had suspicion of disease.

Also – have you heard from FSS? Do you us to remind them or will you do so?

Nick

From: Boddice L (Luke)

Sent: 17 October 2018 14:32

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Cc: <Redacted>

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Phone <Redacted> Fax <Redacted>
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email: <Redacted>

EMAIL 69

From: Voas S (Sheila) <Redacted>
Sent: 17 October 2018 15:23
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

That's fine. I'm in London but will probably head back on train early evening on comms advice rather than go on to BCVA so will
Be able to take calls for a while. Is Ms G happy to call me?

Sheila M Voas, BVM&S, MRCVS

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Animal Health and Welfare Division,
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The Scottish Government
Saughton House, Spur P, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD

Phone <Redacted>
Fax <Redacted>
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email: <Redacted>



From: Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment
Sent: 17 October 2018 15:19
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: Re: BSE - positive test results

Sheila

Ms Gougeon has noted the update and would welcome a call with you. Her signal is patchy at the moment so it may be a while before she's able to call.

Thanks

Mariella

<Redacted>

From: Voas S (Sheila)
Sent: Wednesday, 17 October 2018 15:15
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

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From: Veitch K (Kevin) **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy
Sent: 17 October 2018 15:08
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Sheila

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He thinks that many questions will obviously be asked and ask that Q&A will need to be worked up. He also wants to consider stakeholder engagement and providing an update to FM and DFM.

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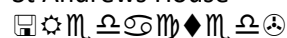
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From: Boddice L (Luke)
Sent: 17 October 2018 14:32
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Cc: <Redacted>
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EMAIL 70

From: Boddice L (Luke) <Redacted>
Sent: 17 October 2018 15:26
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Ok, thanks. Kate will want to see it before it goes up, I'd imagine.

From: Murdoch I J (Ian)
Sent: 17 October 2018 15:26
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Luke/Sheila

Still finalising the Q&A, should be done later this afternoon.

Ian

From: Voas S (Sheila)
Sent: 17 October 2018 15:21
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Maybe still with Nick for checking then?

Sheila M Voas, BVM&S, MRCVS

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Sent: 17 October 2018 14:26

To: <Redacted>

Cc: <Redacted>

Subject: BSE - positive test results

Importance: High

All,

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The Scottish Government
Saughton House, Spur P, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD

Phone <Redacted>
Fax <Redacted>
Mobile <Redacted>
email: <Redacted>

EMAIL 71

From: Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment <Redacted> **Sent:** 17 October 2018 15:39
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: Re: BSE - positive test results

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Mariella
<Redacted>

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Kind regards

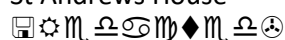
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Mobile <Redacted>
email: <Redacted>

EMAIL 72

From: Waite S (Sheelagh) <Redacted> **On Behalf Of** Voas S (Sheila)
Sent: 17 October 2018 16:02
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Please note that Sheila is now booked on the 1700 Kings X to Edinburgh train and is happy to speak with Ms Gougeon whenever she gets a signal (although obviously this will depend on Sheila's signal as well). Thanks very much.

Sheelagh Waite

Animal Health and Welfare Division
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate
The Scottish Government
P Spur – Saughton House
Broomhouse Drive
EDINBURGH
EH11 3XD

Tel: <Redacted>
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Phone <Redacted>

Fax <Redacted>

Mobile <Redacted>

email: <Redacted>

EMAIL 73

From: Voas S (Sheila) <Redacted> **Sent:** 17 October 2018 16:21

To: <Redacted>

Subject: Re: BSE - positive test results

Hope she hasn't changed plans on our account. I'm heading to kings cross so will be back in the for it.to.go.out tomorrow!

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: Conlan F (Frances)

Sent: Wednesday, 17 October 2018 16:18

To: <Redacted>

Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Sheila

I know that you have been in touch with Elinor, as have I. She is flying back today.

Thanks

Frances Conlan

Head of Strategic and People Support

Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate

<Redacted>

From: Voas S (Sheila)
Sent: 17 October 2018 15:16
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Ok I will try to organise train for this evening.

Sheila

Sheila M Voas, BVM&S, MRCVS
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Animal Health and Welfare Division,
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Saughton House, Spur P, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD
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email: <Redacted>



From: Boddice L (Luke)
Sent: 17 October 2018 15:09
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Sheila – think you might need to come back north as we will no doubt need to deploy you for cameras once this goes live.

From: Voas S (Sheila)
Sent: 17 October 2018 14:57
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

I'm in London – Defra Noble House - until about 4pm. Then plan is travelling to Hinckley Leics for British Cattle Vet Assoc conference and would be there until Saturday. Am sharing a car (not the driver) with the other CVOs from London to Hinckley and train home Saturday afternoon. However my plans can be flexible and if needed I can return to Scotland, in the time it takes to get a train

S

Sheila M Voas, BVM&S, MRCVS

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From: Boddice L (Luke)
Sent: 17 October 2018 14:52
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Sheila,

Can I just check your location/availability etc. As agreed previously, you were to front any initial bid requests.

Thanks
Luke

From: Boddice L (Luke)
Sent: 17 October 2018 14:43
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Thanks Nick. Will make sure your amended version issues.

I've just spoken to FSS about their line. They are chasing at their end.

From: Ambrose N (Nick) Dr
Sent: 17 October 2018 14:41
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Luke,

One small suggested deletion, just so we are not seen to be acting after confirmation: movement restrictions were put on earlier, when we had suspicion of disease.

Also – have you heard from FSS? Do you us to remind them or will you do so?
Nick

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EMAIL 74

From: Boddice L (Luke) <Redacted>

Sent: 17 October 2018 16:22

To: <Redacted>
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OK, thanks. I'll try and get hold of Nick or Kate.

Given the time, I would suggest we hold until tomorrow morning and I brief DEFRA to that effect.

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Happy to wait till tomorrow.

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Has Kate spoken to you? She was wondering down the phone to me about holding any announcement until tomorrow

From: Ambrose N (Nick) Dr
Sent: 17 October 2018 15:31
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

We talked about it the draft with CommsARE. Ian and I are looking at it just now.
N

From: Voas S (Sheila)
Sent: 17 October 2018 15:21
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
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Maybe still with Nick for checking then?

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INSERT QUOTE FROM FSS STRESSING EXPERT ADVICE IS NO RISK TO HUMAN HEALTH OR FOOD CHAIN

Background

The Animal Health Agency (APHA) is investigating the source of the outbreak.

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In addition to the measures we have in place for fallen stock and animal feed, there is a strict control regime to protect consumers. This includes the removal of specified risk material such as the spinal column, brain and skull from carcasses.

From: Waite S (Sheelagh) **On Behalf Of** Voas S (Sheila)

Sent: 17 October 2018 14:26

To: <Redacted>

Cc: <Redacted>

Subject: BSE - positive test results

Importance: High

All,

I have just received telephone notification from the TSE national reference laboratory at Weybridge that our suspect BSE in a 5 year old cow from Aberdeenshire has given positive test results for classical BSE. This is disappointing but we are not unique - both France and Ireland lost their statuses soon after getting them. I have been discussing with Comms colleagues and we are ready to go with communications however I would prefer to wait until I have written confirmation of the results. This should happen within the next hour or so. I am happy to discuss with anyone who wishes more information but I am in London so would need a little bit of notice.

Sheila M Voas, BVM&S, MRCVS, ARAgS
Chief Veterinary Officer (Scotland)

Animal Health and Welfare Division,
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate,
The Scottish Government
Saughton House, Spur P, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD
Phone <Redacted>
Fax <Redacted>
Mobile <Redacted>
email: <Redacted>

EMAIL 75

From: Higgins K (Kate) <Redacted>
Sent: 17 October 2018 16:34
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

grand

Kate Higgins
Special Advisor to the First Minister
Rural Economy and Connectivity
<Redacted>/<Redacted>

My working hours are:
Mon, Tues, Thurs 9.30 – 4.30; Wed 8.30 -4.30
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From: Voas S (Sheila)
Sent: 17 October 2018 16:18
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: Re: BSE - positive test results

I'm happy to wait.till.tomorrow - and no written confirmation from lab yet. Just didn't want.to be seen to be delaying and risk SG criticism if that was possible.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: Higgins K (Kate)
Sent: Wednesday, 17 October 2018 15:29
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Sorry.... But I feel a whole lot safer dealing with this with you close by (pathetic as that sounds!!)

Nick can you give me a call please when you are free –just about timing of releases etc

Kate Higgins
Special Advisor to the First Minister
Rural Economy and Connectivity
<Redacted>/<Redacted>

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From: Voas S (Sheila)
Sent: 17 October 2018 15:16
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Ok I will try to organise train for this evening.

Sheila

Sheila M Voas, BVM&S, MRCVS
Chief Veterinary Officer (Scotland)
Animal Health and Welfare Division,
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate,
The Scottish Government
Saughton House, Spur P, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD
Phone <Redacted>
Fax <Redacted>
Mobile <Redacted>
email: [<Redacted>](mailto:Sheila.Voas@scotland.nhs.uk)



From: Boddice L (Luke)
Sent: 17 October 2018 15:09
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Sheila – think you might need to come back north as we will no doubt need to deploy you for cameras once this goes live.

From: Voas S (Sheila)
Sent: 17 October 2018 14:57
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

I'm in London – Defra Noble House - until about 4pm. Then plan is travelling to Hinckley Leics for British Cattle Vet Assoc conference and would be there until Saturday. Am sharing a car (not the driver) with the other CVOs from London to Hinckley and train home Saturday afternoon. However my plans can be flexible and if needed I can return to Scotland, in the time it takes to get a train

S

Sheila M Voas, BVM&S, MRCVS
Chief Veterinary Officer (Scotland)
Animal Health and Welfare Division,
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate,
The Scottish Government
Saughton House, Spur P, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD
Phone <Redacted>
Fax <Redacted>
Mobile <Redacted>
email: <Redacted>



From: Boddice L (Luke)
Sent: 17 October 2018 14:52
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Sheila,

Can I just check your location/availability etc. As agreed previously, you were to front any initial bid requests.

Thanks
Luke

From: Boddice L (Luke)
Sent: 17 October 2018 14:43
To: <Redacted>

Cc: <Redacted>

Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Thanks Nick. Will make sure your amended version issues.

I've just spoken to FSS about their line. They are chasing at their end.

From: Ambrose N (Nick) Dr

Sent: 17 October 2018 14:41

To: <Redacted>

Cc: <Redacted>

Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Luke,

One small suggested deletion, just so we are not seen to be acting after confirmation: movement restrictions were put on earlier, when we had suspicion of disease.

Also – have you heard from FSS? Do you us to remind them or will you do so?

Nick

From: Boddice L (Luke)

Sent: 17 October 2018 14:32

To: <Redacted>

Cc: <Redacted>

Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Copy of the release below amended to reflect classical. I will hold off issuing until Sheila has written confirmation.

Chasing FSS for the quote just now

BSE

Disease confirmed in Aberdeenshire

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To: <Redacted>

Cc: <Redacted>

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Phone <Redacted>
Fax <Redacted>
Mobile <Redacted>
email: <Redacted>

EMAIL 76

From: Boddice L (Luke) <Redacted>
Sent: 17 October 2018 16:48
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Sounds fine to me.

Assuming we get written confirmation tonight/first thing tomorrow, I would propose the following course of action for tomorrow. We go public via NR no later than 1100. Before then, Ms Gougeon calls local MSP/MP and relevant opposition spokespeople to inform them of what's about to happen. Written question is lodged and answered at some point tomorrow.

Relevant stakeholders and DEFRA comms are also informed shortly before we go 'live'.

Sheila does any media bids in the first instance. I am happy to support, as required/desired.

No doubt speak more tomorrow.

From: Ambrose N (Nick) Dr
Sent: 17 October 2018 16:33
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Yes. Just Finished talking to Kate.

She advises for better timing, availability of interviewees, freshness of staff, readiness of material it would be better to wait until tomorrow. I can see the point and agree if you are both content that there are no/limited risks.

Kate also suggests an inspired PQ tomorrow, at the same time as the PR.

Martyn/Sheila – kate, also wanted assurance that the farmer and family are informed and will not see this on the news/twitter – Is this a role for APHA as soon as we have written report from Weybridge.

Nick

From: Voas S (Sheila)
Sent: 17 October 2018 16:19
To: <Redacted>
Subject: Re: BSE - positive test results

Happy to wait till tomorrow.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: Boddice L (Luke)
Sent: Wednesday, 17 October 2018 15:32
To: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Has Kate spoken to you? She was wondering down the phone to me about holding any announcement until tomorrow

From: Ambrose N (Nick) Dr
Sent: 17 October 2018 15:31
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

We talked about it the draft with CommsARE. Ian and I are looking at it just now.
N

From: Voas S (Sheila)
Sent: 17 October 2018 15:21
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Maybe still with Nick for checking then?

Sheila M Voas, BVM&S, MRCVS
Chief Veterinary Officer (Scotland)
Animal Health and Welfare Division,
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Phone <Redacted>
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email: <Redacted>



From: Boddice L (Luke)
Sent: 17 October 2018 15:19
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Comms not seen the Q&A, unless you mean CommsARE

From: Voas S (Sheila)
Sent: 17 October 2018 15:16
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Thanks Kevin,

Sam in my team has already worked up a Q and A which is with comms and ready to be put on website when we go live with the news release.

We AHWD are planning a stakeholder telecom to ensure key players are aware.
Once we have written results I would propose a more formal submission of them to include recipients of the original submission plus FM, DFM, Health, FSS etc.

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Can you confirm that this is acceptable to Cab Sec and that we should put our existing plans in action once written results received or if he wants to discuss further first.

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Phone <Redacted>
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From: Veitch K (Kevin) **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy
Sent: 17 October 2018 15:08
To: <Redacted>

Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Mr Ewing has noted this disappointing news.

We will also need a SCANCE note for Cabinet on Tuesday.

Kevin Veitch

Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy

St Andrews House

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Sent: 17 October 2018 14:38

To: <Redacted>

Cc: <Redacted>

Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Although we have emailed Cab Sec and the Minister both are on leave this week so suggest that we also await confirmation from Private Office that they are content before release it. However still waiting written lab confirmation of the results.

Sheila M Voas, BVM&S, MRCVS

Chief Veterinary Officer (Scotland)

Animal Health and Welfare Division,

Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate,

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Cc: <Redacted>
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Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate,

The Scottish Government

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Phone <Redacted>

Fax <Redacted>

Mobile <Redacted>

email: [<Redacted>](mailto:Sheila.Voas@scot.nhs.uk)

EMAIL 77

From: Voas S (Sheila<Redacted>
Sent: 17 October 2018 16:55
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: Re: BSE - positive test results

OK I'm now on train heading home. Happy for update to go but as yet we still don't have written results so should be caveatted as such.
Sheila

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: Higgins K (Kate)
Sent: Wednesday, 17 October 2018 16:52
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

All

It is vital that we get a succinct update to FM and DfM this evening – Nick and I have discussed, no need to run this past spads before sending up.

We have all discussed and – I think – agreed that releasing this unwelcome news in an orderly way is preferable to it going out after hours this evening – that allows everyone who needs to be contacted and advised before the media release to be so.

So – and please add if I've missed anything or anyone from suggested initial handling.

Comms advice is that the latest we should think about releasing the news tomorrow would be 11am. Preference at this stage is for Sheila as CVO to be spokesperson for any interview – hope that is ok with you Sheila! This to be reviewed as things develop (or not)

That would give us time to do parliamentary handling. Suggestion is that we seek dispensation to get a GIQ asked and answered on the same day. I will draft something to start off this evening and circulate. The GIQ answer should make clear our offer to provide additional info to Parliament next week as and when appropriate ie a topical question to act as a mini statement or a statement

Also suggested that Ms Gougeon put in calls to the local MSP and MP around 10am tomorrow morning and also writes to the REC committee to coincide with the GIQ. Who are the relevant Ministers in UKG and elsewhere? Is it appropriate for either Ms Gougeon or Mr Ewing to contact them tomorrow morning to provide an update or will the respective CVOs do that? My instinct is the former is more respectful?

Stakeholders – a list to be drawn up and divided up among appropriate senior officials for calls and emails to be sent just ahead of media release going out. Either Ms Gougeon or Mr Ewing to contact <Redacted>.

Once release issues, can we have some social media messages for issue from Greener account – do we need someone to be actively engaging through that account with people who get in touch (with relevant concerns etc)? Can these be circulated so we can arrange for them to issue from personal

accounts with minimal tweaking. It might be a useful rule of thumb for the next wee while for all tweeters and Fbers to take their lead from official Greener Scotland messaging ie wait until you see something official coming out before adding a message.

Can we make sure we have webpage links set up for people to find more info? Do we need a helpline set up? (or at least thinking about that....)

Anything I've missed?

Kate
Kate Higgins
Special Advisor to the First Minister
Rural Economy and Connectivity
<Redacted>/<Redacted>

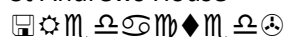
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From: Veitch K (Kevin) **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy
Sent: 17 October 2018 16:01
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Sheila, agreed.

I'll defer to Kate on the urgency of updating FM and DFM, although I expect that will be a priority.

Thanks
Kevin Veitch
Private Secretary
Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy
2N.11
St Andrews House


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Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Sheila

Mr Ewing has noted this disappointing news.

He thinks that many questions will obviously be asked and ask that Q&A will need to be worked up. He also wants to consider stakeholder engagement and providing an update to FM and DFM.

We will also need a SCANCE note for Cabinet on Tuesday.

291

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Phone <Redacted>
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Mobile <Redacted>
email: <Redacted>

EMAIL 78

From: Voas S (Sheila) <Redacted>
Sent: 17 October 2018 16:58
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted> **Subject:** Re: BSE - positive test results

Yes it's for APHA to tell farmer but I haven't told them yet as no written confirmation.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

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Martyn/Sheila – kate, also wanted assurance that the farmer and family are informed and will not see this on the news/twitter – Is this a role for APHA as soon as we have written report from Weybridge.

Nick

From: Voas S (Sheila)
Sent: 17 October 2018 16:19
To: <Redacted>
Subject: Re: BSE - positive test results

Happy to wait till tomorrow.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: Boddice L (Luke)
Sent: Wednesday, 17 October 2018 15:32
To: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Has Kate spoken to you? She was wondering down the phone to me about holding any announcement until tomorrow

From: Ambrose N (Nick) Dr
Sent: 17 October 2018 15:31
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

We talked about it the draft with CommsARE. Ian and I are looking at it just now.
N

From: Voas S (Sheila)
Sent: 17 October 2018 15:21
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Maybe still with Nick for checking then?

Sheila M Voas, BVM&S, MRCVS
Chief Veterinary Officer (Scotland)
Animal Health and Welfare Division,
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate,
The Scottish Government
Saughton House, Spur P, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD
Phone <Redacted>
Fax <Redacted>
Mobile <Redacted>
email: <Redacted>



From: Boddice L (Luke)
Sent: 17 October 2018 15:19
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Comms not seen the Q&A, unless you mean CommsARE

From: Voas S (Sheila)
Sent: 17 October 2018 15:16
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Thanks Kevin,

Sam in my team has already worked up a Q and A which is with comms and ready to be put on website when we go live with the news release.

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Phone <Redacted>
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email: <Redacted>




From: Veitch K (Kevin) **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy
Sent: 17 October 2018 15:08
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Sheila

Mr Ewing has noted this disappointing news.

He thinks that many questions will obviously be asked and ask that Q&A will need to be worked up. He also wants to consider stakeholder engagement and providing an update to FM and DFM.

We will also need a SCANCE note for Cabinet on Tuesday.

Kind regards
Kevin Veitch
Private Secretary
Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy
2N.11
St Andrews House


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Disease confirmed in Aberdeenshire

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Rural Economy Secretary Fergus Ewing said:

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“While it is important to stress that this is standard procedure until we have a clear understanding of the diseases origin, this is further proof that our surveillance system for detecting this type of disease is working. Be assured that the Scottish Government and its partners stand ready to respond to any further confirmed cases of the disease in Scotland.”

Chief Veterinary Officer Sheila Voas said:

“While it is too early to tell where the disease came from in this case, its detection is proof that our surveillance system is doing its job. We are working closely with the Animal and Plant Health Agency to answer this question, and in the meantime, I would urge any farmer who has concerns to immediately seek veterinary advice.

INSERT QUOTE FROM FSS STRESSING EXPERT ADVICE IS NO RISK TO HUMAN HEALTH OR FOOD CHAIN

Background

The Animal Health Agency (APHA) is investigating the source of the outbreak.

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From: Waite S (Sheelagh) **On Behalf Of** Voas S (Sheila)

Sent: 17 October 2018 14:26

To: <Redacted>

Cc: <Redacted>

Subject: BSE - positive test results

Importance: High

All,

I have just received telephone notification from the TSE national reference laboratory at Weybridge that our suspect BSE in a 5 year old cow from Aberdeenshire has given positive test results for classical BSE. This is disappointing but we are not unique - both France and Ireland lost their statuses soon after getting them. I have been discussing with Comms colleagues and we are ready to go with communications however I would prefer to wait until I have written confirmation of the results. This should happen within the next hour or so. I am happy to discuss with anyone who wishes more information but I am in London so would need a little bit of notice.

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Phone <Redacted>
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Mobile <Redacted>
email: <Redacted>

EMAIL 79

From: Voas S (Sheila) <Redacted>
Sent: 17 October 2018 18:17
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: Re: BSE - positive test results

Sorry Kate just seen easier message - are you content we just update FM and DFM early tomorrow?
For information APHA colleagues have just told me that the farmer concerned is "burying his mother" so am trying to clarify when we can tell him the results.

It never rains..... poor man.

S

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: Voas S (Sheila)
Sent: Wednesday, 17 October 2018 18:10
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: Re: BSE - positive test results

Thanks Kate all fine by me.

What we had been planning was to convene a stakeholder teleconference tomorrow about 10am assuming release at 10.30 or 11am, including NFUS (I gave <Redacted> the heads up about a suspect already so they could consider their own comms etc) so they all heard the same thing at the same time from me but if you prefer individual calls we can change that.

My team are all out of Saughton as there is a problem I. The boiler room that has set off the fire alarm.and taken power out from West of edinburgh so i.may put a few headlines to.FM and DFM from BlackBerry in advance of full update.later / First thing tomorrow.

Colleagues in Defra Cvo) have offered to alert Lord Gardiner tomorrow to fit in with our timescales but happy for it to be Minister or Cab Sec if they wish. I just thought as on holiday they may prefer it to be at official level and more technical.

Are comms are looking at social media coverage and the Q and A for the website just needs cleared and added once colleagues can get back into laptops.

I sincerely hope we don't need a helpline. It shouldn't be the big a deal but will depend on the press coverage.

S

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: Higgins K (Kate)
Sent: Wednesday, 17 October 2018 16:52
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

All

It is vital that we get a succinct update to FM and DfM this evening – Nick and I have discussed, no need to run this past spads before sending up.

We have all discussed and – I think – agreed that releasing this unwelcome news in an orderly way is preferable to it going out after hours this evening – that allows everyone who needs to be contacted and advised before the media release to be so.

So – and please add if I've missed anything or anyone from suggested initial handling.

Comms advice is that the latest we should think about releasing the news tomorrow would be 11am. Preference at this stage is for Sheila as CVO to be spokesperson for any interview – hope that is ok with you Sheila! This to be reviewed as things develop (or not)

That would give us time to do parliamentary handling. Suggestion is that we seek dispensation to get a GIQ asked and answered on the same day. I will draft something to start off this evening and circulate. The GIQ answer should make clear our offer to provide additional info to Parliament next week as and when appropriate ie a topical question to act as a mini statement or a statement

Also suggested that Ms Gougeon put in calls to the local MSP and MP around 10am tomorrow morning and also writes to the REC committee to coincide with the GIQ. Who are the relevant Ministers in UKG and elsewhere? Is it appropriate for either Ms Gougeon or Mr Ewing to contact them tomorrow morning to provide an update or will the respective CVOs do that? My instinct is the former is more respectful?

Stakeholders – a list to be drawn up and divided up among appropriate senior officials for calls and emails to be sent just ahead of media release going out. Either Ms Gougeon or Mr Ewing to contact <Redacted>.

Once release issues, can we have some social media messages for issue from Greener account – do we need someone to be actively engaging through that account with people who get in touch (with relevant concerns etc)? Can these be circulated so we can arrange for them to issue from personal accounts with minimal tweaking. It might be a useful rule of thumb for the next wee while for all tweeters and Fbers to take their lead from official Greener Scotland messaging ie wait until you see something official coming out before adding a message.

Can we make sure we have webpage links set up for people to find more info? Do we need a helpline set up? (or at least thinking about that....)

Anything I've missed?

Kate

Kate Higgins
Special Advisor to the First Minister
Rural Economy and Connectivity
<Redacted>/<Redacted>

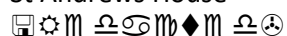
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From: Veitch K (Kevin) **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy
Sent: 17 October 2018 16:01
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Sheila, agreed.

I'll defer to Kate on the urgency of updating FM and DFM, although I expect that will be a priority.

Thanks
Kevin Veitch
Private Secretary
Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy
2N.11
St Andrews House


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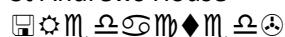
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Cc: <Redacted>

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Phone <Redacted>

Fax <Redacted>

Mobile <Redacted>

email: [<Redacted>](mailto:Sheila.Voas@scotland.nhs.uk)



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Sent: 17 October 2018 14:32

To: <Redacted>

Cc: <Redacted>

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To: <Redacted>

Cc: <Redacted>

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Phone <Redacted>

Fax <Redacted>

Mobile <Redacted>

email: <Redacted>

EMAIL 80

From: Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy <Redacted>

Sent: 17 October 2018 18:42

To: <Redacted>

Cc: <Redacted>

Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Kate, Sheila

Mr Ewing has noted and is content with this approach.

Thanks

Kevin Veitch

Private Secretary

<Redacted>

From: "Higgins K (Kate)" <Redacted>

Sent: 17 Oct 2018 18:04

To: <Redacted>

Cc: <Redacted>

Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

And with earlier email re caveating – I would wait in fact for the update to go based on the written report (as long as APHA have not briefed UK Ministers...) so tomorrow morning for update is fine

Kate Higgins
Special Advisor to the First Minister
Rural Economy and Connectivity
<Redacted>/<Redacted>

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From: Higgins K (Kate)
Sent: 17 October 2018 17:59
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

agreed

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Special Advisor to the First Minister
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From: Voas S (Sheila)
Sent: 17 October 2018 17:46
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: Re: BSE - positive test results

OK. Can you go home rather than hang about waiting? I could do a very brief update for FM and DFM by BlackBerry tonight and we can do the rest early in the morning?

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: Ambrose N (Nick) Dr
Sent: Wednesday, 17 October 2018 17:35

To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: Re: BSE - positive test results

We have a fire alarm at saughton House. 30 mins outside so far, may be sometime yet. We have been told possibly an hour so the update will be late.

Nick

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: Voas S (Sheila)
Sent: Wednesday, 17 October 2018 17:00
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: Re: BSE - positive test results

I'm now on a train back to edinburgh so not ideal to talk. As we don't plan to release until morning now perhaps we could do either after back in edinburgh (10pm) or tomorrow am.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment
Sent: Wednesday, 17 October 2018 15:38
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: Re: BSE - positive test results

Yes, Ms Gougeon will call you when she's got a signal

Mariella

<Redacted>

From: Voas S (Sheila)
Sent: Wednesday, 17 October 2018 15:22
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

That's fine. I'm in London but will probably head back on train early evening on comms advice rather than go on to BCVA so will

Be able to take calls for a while. Is Ms G happy to call me?

Sheila M Voas, BVM&S, MRCVS

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Saughton House, Spur P, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD
Phone <Redacted>
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email: <Redacted>



From: Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment

Sent: 17 October 2018 15:19

To: <Redacted>

Cc: <Redacted>

Subject: Re: BSE - positive test results

Sheila

Ms Gougeon has noted the update and would welcome a call with you. Her signal is patchy at the moment so it may be a while before she's able to call.

Thanks

Mariella

<Redacted>

From: Voas S (Sheila)

Sent: Wednesday, 17 October 2018 15:15

To: <Redacted>

Cc: <Redacted>

Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

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☎ ⚙ ⌚ 📧 💎 📧 📧

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I have just received telephone notification from the TSE national reference laboratory at Weybridge that our suspect BSE in a 5 year old cow from Aberdeenshire has given positive test results for classical BSE. This is disappointing but we are not unique - both France and Ireland lost their statuses soon after getting them. I have been discussing with Comms colleagues and we are ready to go with communications however I would prefer to wait until I have written confirmation of the results. This should happen within the next hour or so. I am happy to discuss with anyone who wishes more information but I am in London so would need a little bit of notice.

Sheila M Voas, BVM&S, MRCVS, ARAgS

Chief Veterinary Officer (Scotland)
Animal Health and Welfare Division,
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate,
The Scottish Government
Saughton House, Spur P, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD
Phone <Redacted>
Fax <Redacted>
Mobile <Redacted>
email: <Redacted>

EMAIL 81

From: Higgins K (Kate) <Redacted>
Sent: 17 October 2018 18:51
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Just to confirm happy with tele conference approach

Kate Higgins
Special advisor to the First Minister
Rural Economy and Connectivity

<Redacted>

Scottish Ministers, special advisors and the Permanent Secretary to the Scottish Government are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot for more information.

Sent with BlackBerry Work

From: Voas S (Sheila) <Redacted>
Date: Wednesday, 17 Oct 2018, 6:10 pm
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: Re: BSE - positive test results

Thanks Kate all fine by me.

What we had been planning was to convene a stakeholder teleconference tomorrow about 10am assuming release at 10.30 or 11am, including NFUS (I gave <Redacted> the heads up about a suspect already so they could consider their own comms etc) so they all heard the same thing at the same time from me but if you prefer individual calls we can change that.

My team are all out of Saughton as there is a problem I. The boiler room that has set off the fire alarm.and taken power out from West of edinburgh so i.may put a few headlines to.FM and DFM from BlackBerry in advance of full update.later / First thing tomorrow.

Colleagues in Defra Cvo) have offered to alert Lord Gardiner tomorrow to fit in with our timescales but happy for it to be Minister or Cab Sec if they wish. I just thought as on holiday they may prefer it to be at official level and more technical.

Are comms are looking at social media coverage and the Q and A for the website just needs cleared and added once colleagues can get back into laptops.

I sincerely hope we don't need a helpline. It shouldn't be the big a deal but will depend on the press coverage.

S

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: Higgins K (Kate)

Sent: Wednesday, 17 October 2018 16:52

To: <Redacted>

Cc: <Redacted>

Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

All

It is vital that we get a succinct update to FM and DfM this evening – Nick and I have discussed, no need to run this past spads before sending up.

We have all discussed and – I think – agreed that releasing this unwelcome news in an orderly way is preferable to it going out after hours this evening – that allows everyone who needs to be contacted and advised before the media release to be so.

So – and please add if I've missed anything or anyone from suggested initial handling.

Comms advice is that the latest we should think about releasing the news tomorrow would be 11am. Preference at this stage is for Sheila as CVO to be spokesperson for any interview – hope that is ok with you Sheila! This to be reviewed as things develop (or not)

That would give us time to do parliamentary handling. Suggestion is that we seek dispensation to get a GIQ asked and answered on the same day. I will draft something to start off this evening and circulate. The GIQ answer should make clear our offer to provide additional info to Parliament next week as and when appropriate ie a topical question to act as a mini statement or a statement

Also suggested that Ms Gougeon put in calls to the local MSP and MP around 10am tomorrow morning and also writes to the REC committee to coincide with the GIQ. Who are the relevant Ministers in UKG and elsewhere? Is it appropriate for either Ms Gougeon or Mr Ewing to contact them tomorrow morning to provide an update or will the respective CVOs do that? My instinct is the former is more respectful?

Stakeholders – a list to be drawn up and divided up among appropriate senior officials for calls and emails to be sent just ahead of media release going out. Either Ms Gougeon or Mr Ewing to contact <Redacted>.

Once release issues, can we have some social media messages for issue from Greener account – do we need someone to be actively engaging through that account with people who get in touch (with

relevant concerns etc)? Can these be circulated so we can arrange for them to issue from personal accounts with minimal tweaking. It might be a useful rule of thumb for the next wee while for all tweeters and FBers to take their lead from official Greener Scotland messaging ie wait until you see something official coming out before adding a message.

Can we make sure we have webpage links set up for people to find more info? Do we need a helpline set up? (or at least thinking about that....)

Anything I've missed?

Kate

Kate Higgins
Special Advisor to the First Minister
Rural Economy and Connectivity
<Redacted>/<Redacted>

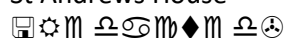
My working hours are:
Mon, Tues, Thurs 9.30 – 4.30; Wed 8.30 -4.30
Fri 9 – 5 and working from home, contactable on <Redacted>

Scottish Government
St Andrew's House, 2 Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG
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From: Veitch K (Kevin) **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy
Sent: 17 October 2018 16:01
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Sheila, agreed.

I'll defer to Kate on the urgency of updating FM and DFM, although I expect that will be a priority.

Thanks
Kevin Veitch
Private Secretary
Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy
2N.11
St Andrews House


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From: Voas S (Sheila)
Sent: 17 October 2018 15:16
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Thanks Kevin,

Sam in my team has already worked up a Q and A which is with comms and ready to be put on website when we go live with the news release.

We AHWD are planning a stakeholder telecom to ensure key players are aware. Once we have written results I would propose a more formal submission of them to include recipients of the original submission plus FM, DFM, Health, FSS etc.

We will also work up a SCANCE note as suggested for next weeks meeting.

Can you confirm that this is acceptable to Cab Sec and that we should put our existing plans in action once written results received or if he wants to discuss further first.

Sheila M Voas, BVM&S, MRCVS
Chief Veterinary Officer (Scotland)
Animal Health and Welfare Division,
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate,
The Scottish Government
Saughton House, Spur P, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD
Phone <Redacted>
Fax <Redacted>
Mobile <Redacted>
email: <Redacted>



From: Veitch K (Kevin) **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy
Sent: 17 October 2018 15:08
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Sheila

Mr Ewing has noted this disappointing news.

From: Boddice L (Luke)
Sent: 17 October 2018 14:32
To: <Redacted>
Cc: <Redacted>
Subject: RE: BSE - positive test results

Copy of the release below amended to reflect classical. I will hold off issuing until Sheila has written confirmation.

Chasing FSS for the quote just now

BSE

Disease confirmed in Aberdeenshire

A case of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) has been confirmed on a farm in Aberdeenshire.

In line with the disease prevention response plan, precautionary movement restrictions have now been put in place at the farm, while further investigations to identify the origin of the disease occur.

This is standard procedure for a confirmed case of Classical BSE, which does not represent a threat to human health.

Rural Economy Secretary Fergus Ewing said:

“Following confirmation of a case of classical BSE in Aberdeenshire, I have activated the Scottish Government’s response plan to protect our valuable farming industry, including establishing a precautionary movement ban being placed on the farm.

“While it is important to stress that this is standard procedure until we have a clear understanding of the diseases origin, this is further proof that our surveillance system for detecting this type of disease is working. Be assured that the Scottish Government and its partners stand ready to respond to any further confirmed cases of the disease in Scotland.”

Chief Veterinary Officer Sheila Voas said:

“While it is too early to tell where the disease came from in this case, its detection is proof that our surveillance system is doing its job. We are working closely with the Animal and Plant Health Agency to answer this question, and in the meantime, I would urge any farmer who has concerns to immediately seek veterinary advice.

INSERT QUOTE FROM FSS STRESSING EXPERT ADVICE IS NO RISK TO HUMAN HEALTH OR FOOD CHAIN

Background

The Animal Health Agency (APHA) is investigating the source of the outbreak.

The case was identified as a result of strict control measures we have in place. It did not enter the human food chain and Food Standards Scotland have confirmed there is no risk to human health as a result of this isolated case.

All animals over four years of age that die on farm are routinely tested for BSE under our comprehensive surveillance system. Whilst the disease is not directly transmitted from animal to animal, its cohorts, including offspring, have been traced and isolated, and will be destroyed in line with EU requirements.

In addition to the measures we have in place for fallen stock and animal feed, there is a strict control regime to protect consumers. This includes the removal of specified risk material such as the spinal column, brain and skull from carcasses.

From: Waite S (Sheelagh) **On Behalf Of** Voas S (Sheila)

Sent: 17 October 2018 14:26

To: <Redacted>

Cc: <Redacted>

Subject: BSE - positive test results

Importance: High

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Saughton House, Spur P, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD

Phone <Redacted>

Fax <Redacted>

Mobile <Redacted>

email: [<Redacted>](mailto:Sheila.Voas@scotland.nhs.uk)

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1

PG0212/18 Scottish BSE suspect (Internal reference number J7440).

RESULT REPORT

Background:

Tissue from the above animal was tested at Eurofins using a TSE rapid test (BioRad TeSeE ELISA) and found to be a strong positive.

Information received from Eurofins:

Project Type - Bovine Fallen Stock

Disposal site: Dundas Mossspark

Owner: <Redacted>

CPH: <Redacted>

Ear tag: <REDACTED>

DOB: <Redacted>04/13

Barcode: J00311332226

Date of Death: 02/10/18

Date sampled: 04/10/18

OD of sample: 2.886

OD of retests: 2.887, 2.890

Fixed material available- condition 2

Materials received:

Species: Bovine

Frozen and fixed tissue, and blood samples from the above case were received at APHA Weybridge for further testing.

Pathology processing and interpretation:

Tissues were processed according to our standard operating procedures.

Sections were stained with Haematoxylin & Eosin for detection of vacuolation and labelled with monoclonal antibody R145 (immunohistochemistry) for detection of PrPSc.

The degree of autolysis did not allow unequivocal recognition of TSE vacuoles. Therefore it was not possible to detect spongiform changes.

Immunohistochemistry revealed PrPSc specific deposits in the neurons and neuropil (Fig. 1).

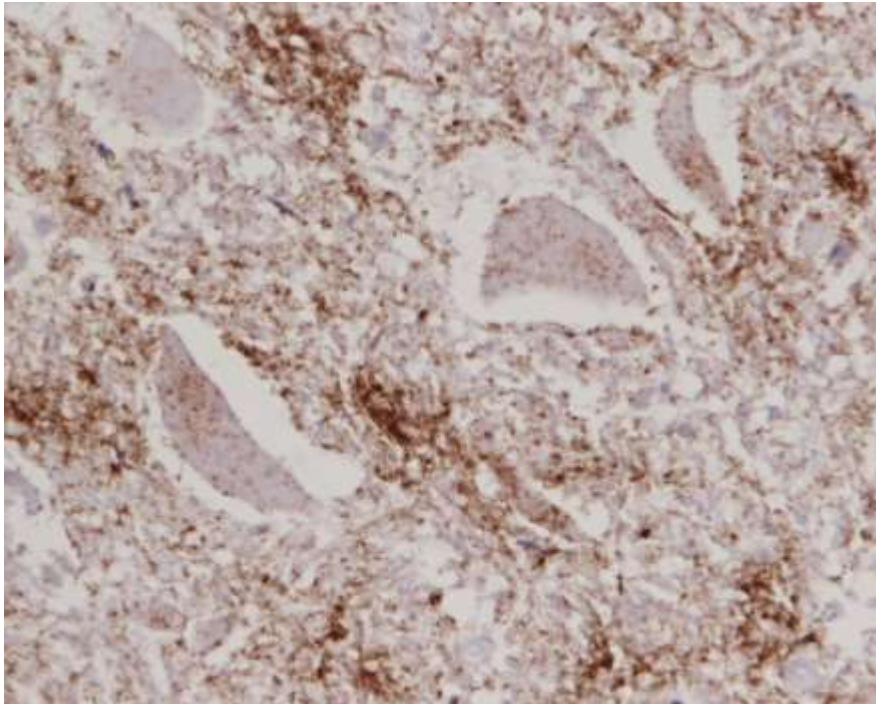


Figure 1. IHC at the level of the obex. There is abundant PrPSc specific deposits in the neuropil and the neurons .

Pathology Diagnosis
BSE positive

TSE Western blotting

Western blot confirmatory testing was carried out using the APHA BioRad Hybrid Western blot which can confirm presence of known prion disease and discriminate between classical and known atypical forms of BSE. Two areas from the sample were examined; cut 1 and cut 2 and diluted 1:10 and 1:20 to obtain the clearest Western blot profile for analysis.

Classical BSE, L-type BSE, H-type BSE and classical scrapie controls were examined alongside the Scottish bovine sample.

Presence of disease is confirmed by the appearance of three PrPres characteristic Western blot bands. No bands are visualised in a TSE negative sample.

The strain discrimination is carried out using visual and computer analysis of these resulting PrPres bands.

The lanes associated with the sample and each control control are visually characterised from the Sha31 antibody blot according to the following criteria (defined most recently in the UK BSE retrospective study, 2015, see Table 1).

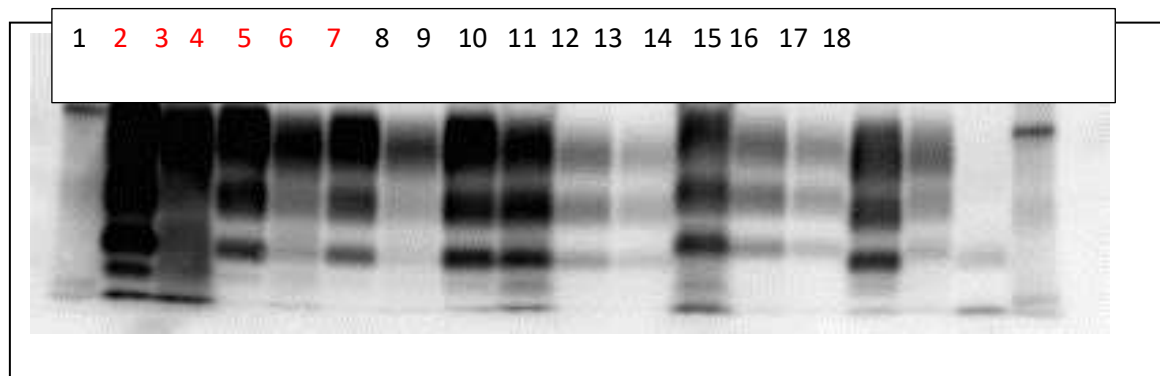
Table 1. BSE Western blot classification criteria

BSE type		Properties
Classical BSE	•	Low molecular mass migration with Sha31
	•	No signal with P4
	•	Predominant di glycosylated band
Atypical L-type BSE	•	Low molecular mass migration with Sha31
	•	No signal with P4
	•	Reduced di-glycosylated band, similar or reduced in comparison to the mono-glycosylated band.
Atypical H-type BSE	•	A high molecular mass migration (similar to classical scrapie)
	•	Similar intensity of signal with P4
	•	Reduced di-glycosylated band and additional low band with SAF84

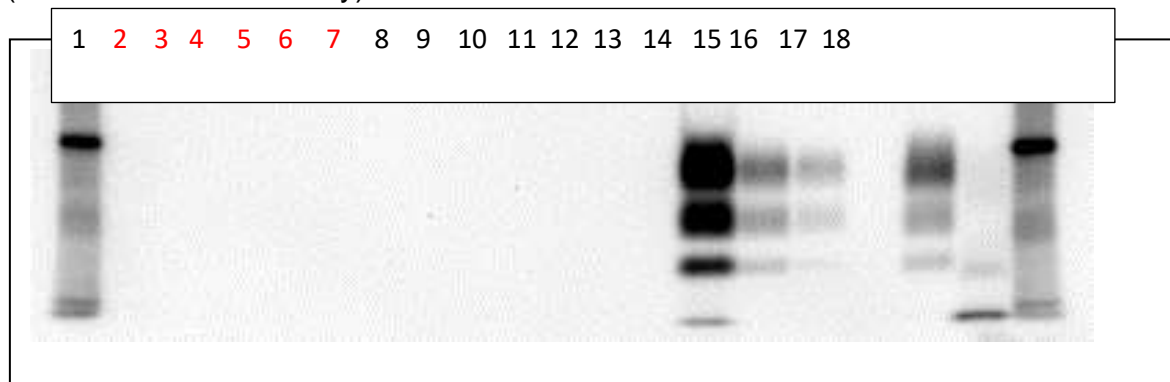
TSE Western Blot Results:

The western blot results are presented in Figure 2.

Sha31 (core PrP antibody)



P4 (N-terminal PrP antibody)



SAF84 (C-terminal PrP antibody)

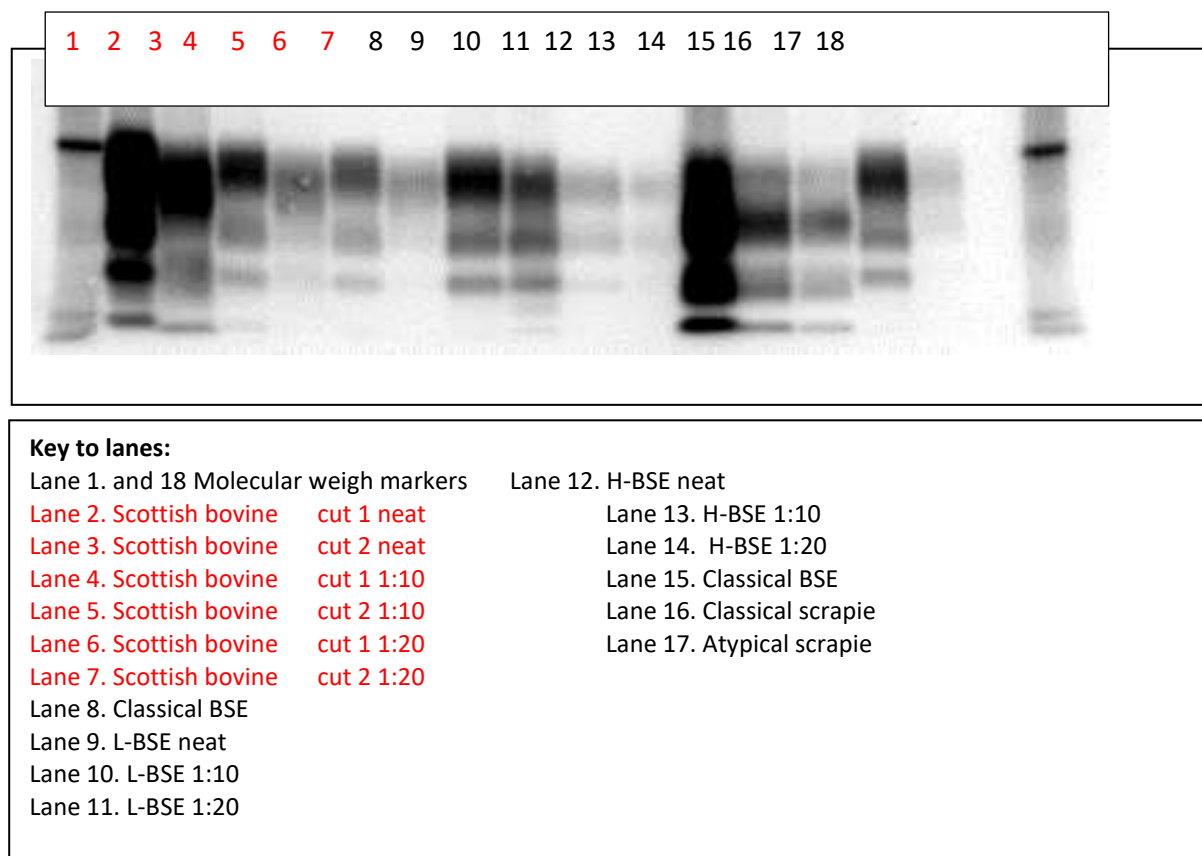


Figure 2. Western blot images for PG0212/18.

Analysis of the Western blots.

The criteria described above were applied to the resulting Western blots. Qualitative assessment of the western blot profile for the Scottish sample most closely meets the criteria for classical BSE – It has a low molecular mass migration with Sha31 (relative to classical scrapie), it has no signal with P4 and the di-glycosylated band is clearly the most dominant band.

To obtain objective information regarding the proportion of each of the bands in each sample, The Sha31 Western blot was subjected to glycoform analysis using specific computer software.

This analysis calculates the relative distribution via intensity of the Western blot signal for the three PrPres bands. The upper band (representing the di-glycosylated form of the protein) and the middle band (representing mono-glycosylated forms) are then plotted on a scatter graph.

From the BSE retrospective study (2015), we recognise that on the scatter graph atypical BSE clusters in a different region to classical BSE, due to the strain specific differences observed in the abundance of signal from the upper and middle band.

The plot diagram obtained from the Sha31 antibody blot for the PG0212/18 Scottish BSE Fallen Stock sample is shown below.

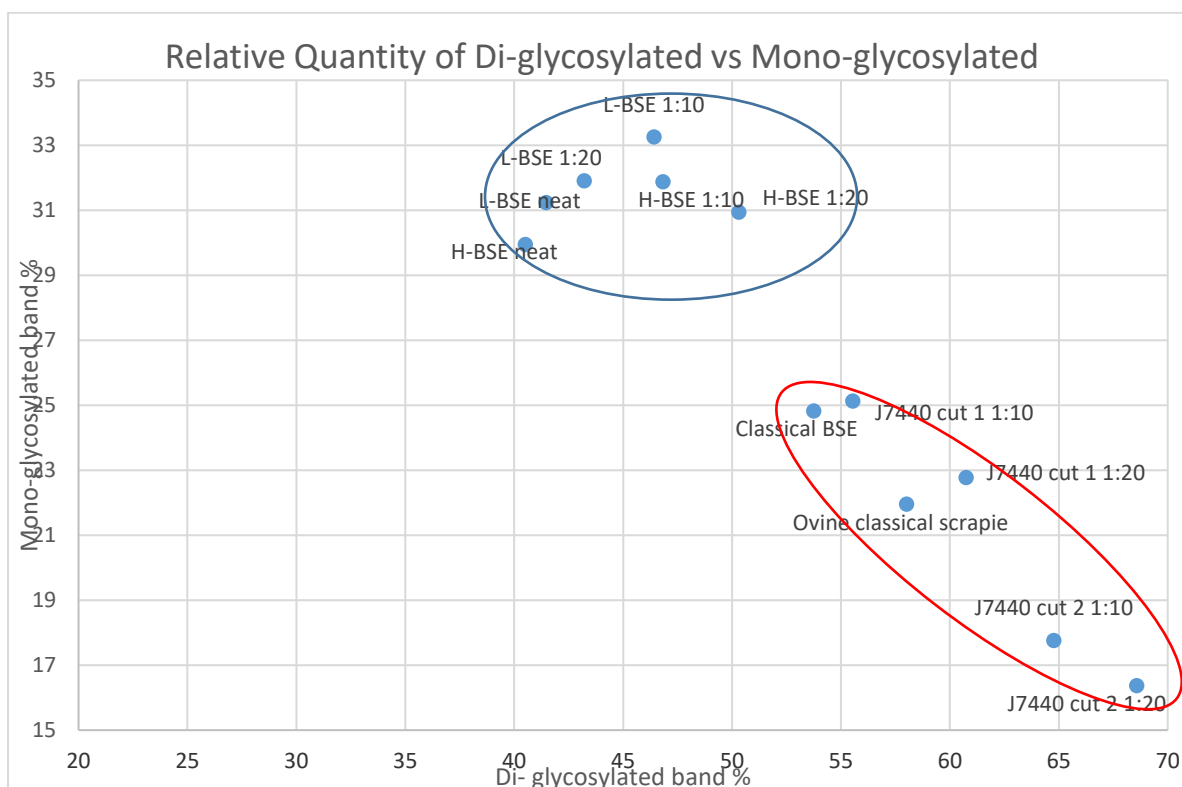


Figure 2. Plot diagram of densitometry readings of mono-glycosylated and di-glycosylated PrPres indicating the separate clusters between classical and atypical BSE cases.

The classical BSE controls are clustering separately from the atypical BSE cases as it has been previously demonstrated. The Scottish bovine sample clusters with the classical BSE control.

Overall Conclusion

PG0212/18 (J7440) sample is TSE positive and has a molecular profile that is different from H- or L- type BSE and is indistinguishable from classical BSE.

<Redacted>_