

## Emails on 19<sup>th</sup> October

### 39 Email/ chains

#### Email 1

Thanks <Redacted>

Glad to hear it is not causing too much work at your end. We are keeping our BSE pages, including Q&A about BSE and this case, up to date so you could point folk in that direction:

<https://www.gov.scot/Topics/farmingrural/Agriculture/animal-welfare/Diseases/disease/bse>

Thanks,  
Nick

**From:** <Redacted>  
**Sent:** 22 October 2018 09:32  
**To:** <Redacted>  
**Cc:** <Redacted>  
**Subject:** RE: Anything we can do to help?

Morning Nick, Jamie,

Just a quick note to let you know that so far we have only recorded 2 calls about the BSE incident in the BCMs Helpline. One was asking for general information about BSE, and the other was from a waste management company offering their services.

Will let you know if anything changes.

<Redacted>

**From:** Ambrose N (Nick) Dr [[<Redacted>](#)]  
**Sent:** 19 October 2018 19:36  
**To:** <Redacted>  
**Cc:** [[<Redacted>](#)]  
**Subject:** Re: Anything we can do to help?

Hi <Redacted>  
Thank for your offer, very thoughtful.

We have not had any need to take up your offer largely because this is a single case on a small farm, with a small number of cohorts, few movements off etc. My understanding although I haven't asked, is that Apha used existing routes, SAM and CTS and may have used ScotEID for 'linked' holdings. It will interesting to follow up details in due course.

There will be further follow up epidemiological work which could require BCMS input. I have no details on that yet but it will be led by Apha.

Thanks again,  
Nick

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

**From:** <Redacted>  
**Sent:** Friday, 19 October 2018 14:40  
**To:** <Redacted>  
**Cc:** <Redacted>  
**Subject:** Anything we can do to help?

Hi Nick

I know <Redacted> has been liaising with Jamie on the confirmed classical BSE case in Aberdeenshire, but I just wanted to check that you have everything you need from BCMS and whether there is anything we could help with. I appreciate the handling sensitivities and more than happy to work on strictly confidential basis keeping those involved to a minimum if it helps. I am assuming you are not reliant on us supplying any CTS data for tracing purposes.

Either way, just wanted to reassure you we are on standby if you need us to help or if you think there is anything we should be aware of.

Feel free to call if you want to discuss. Thanks.

<Redacted>

## Email 2

Thank you Ian

I will get back to the BE in Thailand and give assurances that the visit can still go ahead

Cheers

<Redacted>

<Redacted>

**From:** Murdoch I J (Ian) [[<Redacted>](#)]  
**Sent:** 19 October 2018 09:22  
**To:** <Redacted>  
**Cc:** <Redacted>  
**Subject:** RE: Urgent! BSE found in Aberdeenshire/<Redacted> <Redacted>

Hi <Redacted>

I would agree that there is no reason to cancel the visit. The change in status will mainly impact on abattoirs as the definition of specified risk material changes to reflect a country or zone with Controlled Risk BSE status i.e. we will have more category 1 ABP material in a cattle carcass.

Ian

**Ian Murdoch**

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

**From:** <Redacted>

**Sent:** 19 October 2018 09:00

**To:** <Redacted>

**Cc:** <Redacted>

**Subject:** FW: Urgent! BSE found in Aberdeenshire/<Redacted> <Redacted>

Good morning Ian and Sam

Please see the Email below from the British Embassy in Thailand.

I understand from <Redacted> (copied in ) that you are aware of this visit.

Whilst it is clear that the NRS of Scotland has been a marketing advantage and that as a result of this latest case the status will change to reflect the UK's wider Controlled Risk Status, there is no reason the visit should not go ahead.

Do you agree ?

Are there any further lines that you feel we can feed back to the BE at this time ?

Thanks

<Redacted>

**From:** <Redacted>

**Sent:** 19 October 2018 02:49

**To:** <Redacted>

**Cc:** <Redacted>

**Subject:** RE: Urgent! BSE found in Aberdeenshire/<Redacted>

Hi <Redacted>

<Redacted>

Further to my below email, we understand that you might be very busy at the moment with this case, however is it possible for us to receive your suggestion by today please.

<Redacted>

We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Thank you  
Best regards  
<Redacted>

**From:** <Redacted>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 18, 2018 9:09 PM  
**To:** <Redacted>  
**Cc:** <Redacted>  
**Subject:** Urgent! BSE found in a beef farm in Aberdeenshire  
**Importance:** High

Hi <Redacted>

<Redacted> our deputy director, has found the below article about BSE disease case in Scotland reported by the guardian website this month. Please see below;

[https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/oct/18/bse-case-found-on-aberdeenshire-farm?CMP=fb\\_qu](https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/oct/18/bse-case-found-on-aberdeenshire-farm?CMP=fb_qu)

<Redacted>

<Redacted>

Looking forward to hearing from you soon.

Thank you  
Best regards  
<Redacted>

### Email 3

<Redacted>

Please see email and attachments UKCVO aiming to reassure trade partners.  
Nick

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

**From:** <Redacted>  
**Sent:** Friday, 19 October 2018 18:07  
**To:** <Redacted>  
**Subject:** FW: Classical Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) confirmed on a farm in Aberdeenshire, Scotland, United Kingdom

Dear Sheila and colleagues, to see the message below that <Redacted> has sent to trading partner British Embassies.

regards and have a relaxing weekend.  
<Redacted>

**From:** <Redacted>

**Sent:** 19 October 2018 18:05

**To:** <Redacted>

**Cc:** <Redacted>

**Subject:** Classical Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) confirmed on a farm in Aberdeenshire, Scotland, United Kingdom

Dear colleagues,

As you may be aware, the Scottish Government confirmed a case of Classical Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) on a farm in Aberdeen on 18 October 2018.

The animal was born and bred in Aberdeenshire and was 5 years of age. The cow was treated for the clinical signs of hypomagnesaemia and died a few days later. It was tested in the course of carrying out mandatory testing under the EU survey of all fallen stock cattle aged over 48 months. A full epidemiological investigation is being carried out by The Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) to identify evidence of routes of infection.

I would like to stress that the UK has stringent controls in place to protect the food chain and safeguard public health and these regulatory controls are highly effective.

The UK has “controlled risk” status and this remains unchanged. As beef can be safely traded under international rules from countries with “controlled risk” status, UK-wide trade will not be affected. As a result of the BSE case, Scotland will lose its “negligible risk” status. Northern Ireland will retain its “negligible risk” status. The earliest point that the UK as a whole will be able to gain “negligible risk” status is 2025.

The current incidence of new cases and the profile of decline indicate that the UK continues to make very good progress towards the eradication of BSE and highlights the strength of our comprehensive surveillance programme.

Following a peak of over 37,000 clinical cases in 1992, the number of new BSE cases now detected by active and passive surveillance continues to decline year on year, with only 1 case confirmed in the UK in 2014, 2 cases in 2015, 0 cases in 2016, 0 cases in 2017 and 1 case so far in 2018 (as at 18 October). This pattern is not unusual. Please refer to the following [link](#) to see the general statistics on BSE cases in the UK.

As we move closer towards eradication of Classical BSE, there is a known probability that further cases may be detected. I am attaching a publically available peer-reviewed academic journal article, which indicates that there was a 6% probability of a case occurring in 2018 (please refer to page 5 of the attached PDF article for further details).

I have also enclosed the official test result on this case from our Reference Laboratory for your information. This has been sent to the European Commission and they are being kept well informed as the situation evolves.

As always, we remain vigilant to the threat posed by BSE and the following key controls, that protect public and animal health, will remain in force:

- the ban on feeding animal protein to farmed animals, which prevents the spread of BSE to animals through feed;
- removing specified risk material (SRM) – the most risky parts of animals – at slaughter to protect consumers from risk from food
- Surveillance to monitor the level of BSE over time and thereby check on the continued effectiveness of BSE controls

We are in the process of notifying the OIE and will be reconfirming the risk status across all of UK, including Scotland.

As I mentioned earlier, a full epidemiological investigation is being carried out by The Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) to identify evidence of routes of infection. This will take several weeks to complete but we will share the report with you in due course. This will take a number of weeks but we will be sure to share this with you when it becomes.

Defra's press release is available [here](#).

The following [link](#) provides some history of the cases in the UK.

Please also note the following links to international position on BSE (including BSE cases worldwide up to 31 December 2016):

- <http://www.oie.int/en/animal-health-in-the-world/official-disease-status/bse/en-bse-carte/>
- <http://www.oie.int/animal-health-in-the-world/bse-situation-in-the-world-and-annual-incidence-rate/number-of-reported-cases-worldwide-excluding-the-united-kingdom/>

#### **Additional background information**

An active BSE surveillance programme has been in place since 2001 and is carried out by approved facilities on all fallen livestock over 48 month old that die on a farm. Scotland takes BSE samples from over 20,000 fallen cattle each year.

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.

Scotland has been BSE free since 2009. In the years before that, there were relatively low numbers of BSE cases when compared to the peak of the epidemic in 1993 when there were 2208 clinical cases confirmed. The marked decrease in the number of cases detected through passive and active surveillance is consistent with the long tail previously predicted by epidemiologists.

Please share this information reactively and proactively with your interested parties as necessary.

Kind regards

<Redacted>

## Email 4

Cab Sec  
CC as before + Permanent Secretary

At this point we cannot say for certain how or why this animal developed BSE. The spongiform encephalopathies are an interesting group of diseases, some of which are transmissible, though the consumption of infectious proteins called prions, and some of which are sporadic and spontaneous. The epidemic in the late 1980s and 1990s was of the transmissible type and was linked to the recycling of ruminant protein, such as meat and bone meal, back into ruminant feeding stuffs. It was this type that was linked with the human disease, new variant Creutzfeld –Jacob disease (vCJD). It is considered most probable that infection through the feed route occurs in the first 12 months of life, and there is no evidence that the disease can be vertically transmitted ie from mother to calf.

Sporadic cases are usually the result of a spontaneous genetic mutation which results in abnormal proteins being produced. Atypical BSE is in this category, but it is widely believed that some classical cases are also of this type.

In the current case investigations so far show absolutely no evidence of any proteins being fed to this animal, and so contamination of feeding stuffs with contaminated proteins is unlikely. The farm fed only grass and conserved forages at the time of birth of this animal, although in the last 2 years (only) they have introduced some creep feed to calves around the time of weaning. This is from a reputable source and APHA investigations show that it has been correctly fed and stored. Additionally food for the companion animals is stored separately so it is highly unlikely that this animal consumed cat or dog food which conceivably could contain ruminant material, but only of a quality suitable for human consumption.

There is also no history of BSE on the farm, so contaminated burial sites, from the very early days when burial was not specifically prevented, is unlikely.

So in summary, we cannot say with any certainty where this has come from, but there is absolutely no evidence to support the hypothesis that this is the transmissible form of the disease acquired through feeding.

Investigations are ongoing. The epidemiological investigation will look into this preliminary information in much more detail. Things such as the application of meat and bone meal fertiliser to the garden and the calves getting accidental access to the garden will be considered, to consider other hypothetical but unlikely possible exposures. The lab are also running a mouse bioassay to determine further characterisation of the disease, which may help to determine transmissibility and whether this is as a result of a genetic mutation. This testing involved inoculating mice with infectious brain material from this animal and looking at changes in behaviour temperament and ultimately euthanasing the mice and looking for changes in their brains to compare with previous cases. This takes a minimum of 250 days. However even after all of this it is possible that we will never be able to definitively say why this case occurred nor what its origin was.

I apologise for being unable to be more precise at present but we will keep you informed as investigations progress.

Please ask if you have any further queries.

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:<Redacted>)

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

**Sent:** 19 October 2018 13:16

**To:** <Redacted>

**Cc:** <Redacted>

**Subject:** RE: Confirmation of a BSE case on a farm in Aberdeenshire - IMMEDIATE  
- 18 October 2018

Nick

Mr Ewing has noted and asked if we know how this animal actually contracted BSE?

Kind regards

**Kevin Veitch**

Private Secretary

Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy

2N.11

St Andrews House



**Email 5 (Please see Attachment 1)**

Nick,

Mr Ewing is content with the SCANCE note.

Robin – please see attached final version.

Thanks,  
Ellie

Ellie Fairgrieve

Deputy Private Secretary  
Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy  
[<Redacted>](#)

**From:** Ambrose N (Nick) Dr  
**Sent:** 22 October 2018 12:04  
**To:** <Redacted>  
**Cc:** <Redacted>  
**Subject:** SCANCE note - BSE case confirmed in Scotland - October 2018

PS/Cabinet Secretary,

With thanks for the extension to the deadline. Please find attached 1 page SCANCE note on the recent Confirmed BSE case.

If you require anything more please get in touch.

Nick

**From:** Veitch K (Kevin) **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy  
**Sent:** 19 October 2018 11:31  
**To:** <Redacted>  
**Cc:** <Redacted>  
**Subject:** RE: BSE - positive test results

Nick

Grateful for sight of the draft SCANCE by 10:00 on Monday.

Thanks

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


## Email 6

**From:** Ambrose N (Nick) Dr [<Redacted>](#)  
**Sent:** 19 October 2018 19:36  
**To:** <Redacted>  
**Cc:** <Redacted>  
**Subject:** Re: Anything we can do to help?

Hi <Redacted>

Thank for your offer, very thoughtful.

We have not had any need to take up your offer largely because this is a single case on a small farm, with a small number of cohorts, few movements off etc. My understanding although I haven't asked, is that Apha used existing routes, SAM and CTS and may have used ScotEID for 'linked' holdings. It will interesting to follow up details in due course.

There will be further follow up epidemiological work which could require BCMS input. I have no details on that yet but it will be led by Apha.

Thanks again,  
Nick

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

**From:** <Redacted>  
**Sent:** Friday, 19 October 2018 14:40  
**To:** <Redacted>  
**Cc:** <Redacted>  
**Subject:** Anything we can do to help?

Hi Nick

I know <Redacted> has been liaising with Jamie on the confirmed classical BSE case in Aberdeenshire, but I just wanted to check that you have everything you need from BCMS and whether there is anything we could help with. I appreciate the handling sensitivities and more than happy to work on strictly confidential basis keeping those involved to a minimum if it helps. I am assuming you are not reliant on us supplying any CTS data for tracing purposes.

Either way, just wanted to reassure you we are on standby if you need us to help or if you think there is anything we should be aware of.

Feel free to call if you want to discuss. Thanks.

<Redacted>

<Redacted>

### **Email 7 (See Attachment 2)**

Dear all,

Here is the briefing note on the Aberdeenshire BSE case with annexes attached. It is intended to be suitable for a wide readership for the next few weeks – so will probably need updating in a week or so to reflect the fact that the cohorts and offspring will have been culled.

It will hopefully also form the basis of the SCANCE note.

Cheers,  
Jenny

**JENNY PURCELL**

Animal Health and Welfare Division | Disease Prevention Team | P Spur | Saughton House  
T:<Redacted>| E: <Redacted>

**Email 8**

<Redacted>  
Fyi For you too.  
N

**From:** Waite S (Sheelagh) **On Behalf Of** Voas S (Sheila)  
**Sent:** 19 October 2018 11:02  
**To:** <Redacted>  
**Subject:** FW: Official Sensitive: Heads Up to BSE Related Media Release - China  
**Importance:** High

Please see email chain below FYI. Thanks.

**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>

**From:** McDavid M (Margaret) (AFRC)  
**Sent:** 19 October 2018 10:55  
**To:** <Redacted>  
**Cc:** <Redacted>  
**Subject:** FW: Official Sensitive: Heads Up to BSE Related Media Release - China  
**Importance:** High

Sheila

To see below

*Margaret*

PA to:-Ian Davidson  
Head of Agriculture Policy Division  
The Scottish Government  
Tel: 0300 244 6682  
Mail: D Spur, Saughton House,  
Broomhouse Drive,  
Edinburgh,  
EH11 3XD

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**From:** <Redacted>  
**Sent:** 19 October 2018 17:29  
**To:** <Redacted>  
**Cc:** <Redacted>  
**Subject:** Official Sensitive: Heads Up to BSE Related Media Release - China

Ian,

China, of course, will not be the focus for now, but just for information, the advice back from Food and Drink colleagues here and next steps.

I'll keep you posted as I hear more.

<Redacted>  


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**From:** <Redacted>  
**Sent:** 19 October 2018 15:15  
**To:** <Redacted>  
**Subject:** FW: Official Sensitive: Heads Up to BSE Related Media Release

FYI

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**From:** <Redacted>  
**Sent:** 19 October 2018 15:02  
**To:** <Redacted>  
**Cc:** <Redacted>  
**Subject:** RE: Official Sensitive: Heads Up to BSE Related Media Release

<Redacted>

I'm copying in <Redacted> as she's now fully taken over my role, but as she's travelling today I'm covering.

The only previous history we have to go on, in terms of assessing likely decisions, is a Brazil BSE case, which did result in a fairly swift BSE ban. But the UK's complex BSE history, the extensive technical and political history of us securing the ban lifting, and the overall current political relationship are all so different to Brazil, so we can't really draw a conclusion about the likelihood of a ban reinstatement, but certainly we should prepare for it.

We have spoken to several Government experts today, who have advised consistently that the best course of action is for us to provide (send via <Redacted> the technical information they need to be able to advise senior decision makers on a technical basis rather than the decision being solely political or based on the concern of the Chinese public reception. So we would be grateful if Defra could provide, at the earliest possible opportunity, an epidemiological or similar report which covers tracing activities, source investigations, spread investigations, the control measures being activated such as tracing and culling of cohorts. It would be helpful if you could provide more detail about the

public and animal health impact than is in the Q&A we have. Also the Q&A refers to the year of birth of the last 2015 case and not this animal so we'll need that (media coverage says 5 years but we'd like Defra confirmation).

This approach suggests that we should avoid proactively raising with senior officials in GACC and MARA, while we compile the necessary information they will need. Which is the model that China would follow in the case of instances of disease / similar in China. If we approach them too proactively above technical level they may well feel the obligation to reinstate the ban without the balanced facts. For that reason I would also delay your letter back to <Redacted> because it would be odd for you to send without mentioning this. But we should review this daily because if the technical information takes too long to arrive then we can't remain low key forever.

To be aware the Hong Kong authorities approached our consulate today asking for information (but not expressing concern). We've given <Redacted> in the consulate the public lines for her to use – I've not cc'd her into this because she's not on OFF SEN, but be good if your team / Jen can stay in touch with her.

For info, the situation has hit the Chinese press already, so we're watching what they say.

<Redacted>

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**From:** <Redacted>  
**Sent:** 19 October 2018 14:28  
**To:** <Redacted>  
**Subject:** FW: Official Sensitive: Heads Up to BSE Related Media Release  
**Importance:** High

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**From:** <Redacted>  
**Sent:** 18 October 2018 18:48  
**To:** <Redacted>  
**Cc:** <Redacted>  
**Subject:** RE: Official Sensitive: Heads Up to BSE Related Media Release  
**Importance:** High

<https://news.gov.scot/news/bse>

<< File: BSE FAQ - October 2018.docx >>  
Both,

Scotland has confirmed this morning a case of classical BSE in a Scottish born and reared cow. The cow was classed as fallen stock, as that is it wasn't able to go into the food chain as a matter of course, and was detected as part of our routine surveillance of all fallen stock.

- This does NOT change the UK OIE controlled risk status.
- It will push back to 2024 when the UK as a whole can apply for negligible risk status.

- The infected animal was found as part of our routine surveillance. We test over 120,000 animals a year in the UK, Scotland tests over 20,000 fallen stock cattle as part of our routine surveillance. This detection demonstrates our system working effectively.
- I remain confident in our BSE controls as colleagues in China and Japan have inspected.

Very keen to know any reactions in China and Japan to this news.

Very happy to provide any other information that you would like.

<Redacted>

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**From:** <Redacted>

**Sent:** 18 October 2018 10:59

**To:** <Redacted>

**Cc:** <Redacted>

**Subject:** Official Sensitive: Heads Up to BSE Related Media Release

Both,

When I have it I will be sending you a copy of a BSE related media release and some accompanying lines to take. There is an announcement being made by Scotland at 11am our time.

Best regards

<Redacted>

## **Email 9**

Statement from the farmer

**From:** <Redacted><Redacted>

**Sent:** 19 October 2018 12:25

**Subject:** Farmer statement on BSE case

Good afternoon,

<Redacted>, the farmer of the herd found with BSE in Aberdeenshire, is currently unavailable for comment or interview. However, he has issued the following statement through NFU Scotland:

“This has been a very difficult time for myself and my wife and we have found the situation personally devastating. We have built up our closed herd over many years and have always taken great pride in doing all the correct things. To find through the surveillance system in place that one of our cows has BSE has been heart breaking.

“Since this has happened we have been fully cooperating with all the parties involved and will continue to do so as we like everyone want to move forward and clear up this matter.

“The cohorts and offspring of the cow have now been identified and as a purely precautionary measure they will be slaughtered and tested in due course; again we are fully co-operating with all the parties with regards to this.”

For any press who would like to discuss this further, please contact me directly below.

Kind regards,

<Redacted> **NFU Scotland | Rural Centre, West Mains, Ingliston, Newbridge, EH28 8LT**

**Phone:** <Redacted> | **Mob** <Redacted> | **Email:** <Redacted> | **Website:**

<http://www.nfus.org.uk/>

#### **Email 10**

<Redacted>

Please see email and attachments UKCVO aiming to reassure trade partners.

Nick

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

**From:** <Redacted> **Sent:** Friday, 19 October 2018 18:07

**To:** <Redacted>

**Subject:** FW: Classical Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) confirmed on a farm in Aberdeenshire, Scotland, United Kingdom

Dear Sheila and colleagues, to see the message below that <Redacted> has sent to trading partner British Embassies.

regards and have a relaxing weekend.

<Redacted>



<Redacted>

#### **Email 11**

Many thanks Ian. Have a good week end – I am sure you are glad to see it!

**From:** Murdoch I J (Ian) [[<Redacted>](#)]

**Sent:** 19 October 2018 16:16

**To:** <Redacted>

**Cc:** <Redacted>  
**Subject:** RE: BSE Scotland

Hi Ignatius

There are no cohorts or offspring for you to worry about. 3 cohorts and 1 offspring have been identified and they are all on the holding. We have updated our BSE FAQ with this information, the changes are not live yet but should be after 5. Here's the link:

<https://www.gov.scot/Topics/farmingrural/Agriculture/animal-welfare/Diseases/disease/bse/BSEfaq>

Ian

**Ian Murdoch**

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

**From:** McKeown, Ignatius <Redacted>  
**Sent:** 19 October 2018 16:13  
**To:** <Redacted>  
**Cc:** <Redacted>  
**Subject:** FW: BSE Scotland

Ian, Sam, can you advise if there are any progeny and cohorts linked to us in NI? It would also be useful to get some background info about the animal, so I would be grateful if you could let us know.  
Thanks

**From:** <Redacted>  
**Sent:** 19 October 2018 15:11  
**To:** <Redacted>  
**Subject:** BSE Scotland

<Redacted> – can you find out from our Scottish Colleagues the details of the BSE animal and if there are any cohort or progeny traces linked to NI. Thanks  
<REDACTED>

**Email 12**

Hi <Redacted>

This is the section of the consultation that we are referring to – see highlight in table 4 below (links to full papers below):

**Disposal Costs**

SRM

- 2.1 SRM is classified as *Category 1 Animal By-Product* (ABP) and is therefore only permitted to go for disposal at a cost currently of approximately £80 per tonne. Table 3 summarises which parts of the carcass are classified as SRM under the different regimes Negligible Risk and Controlled Risk. All disposal costs are borne by industry and through achieving negligible risk, the Scottish industry would be able to save on some of these costs.

**Table 3:** SRM Material under Controlled Risk and Negligible Risk Status\*

Part of Carcass	Controlled Risk	Negligible Risk	Weight Per Head
Tonsil	SRM		0.02kg
Intestine and Intestinal Fat	SRM		30kg (Plus 25kg Contents)
Spinal Cord	SRM	SRM	0.2kg
Skull (excluding Mandible and including Meat)	SRM	SRM	8.67kg
Vertebral Column	SRM		19kg

\* data from Scottish Association of Meat Wholesalers (SAMW)

- 2.2 In 2015, Scottish abattoirs slaughtered approximately 468,000 cattle with around 85,000 over 30 months (OTM) at slaughter<sup>[1]</sup>. Based on these figures, the savings on disposal costs would amount to approximately £1.3m per year (assuming that all the former SRM finds new markets and none is sent for disposal). If Scotland were to be upgraded to NR status 4 years ahead of the UK as a whole, this would mean a total saving of £5m for the Scottish industry assuming disposal costs are unchanged (see Table 4). This would be of benefit to the overall beef supply chain.

**Table 4:** Cost of disposing of intestine, intestinal fat and spinal column

	Under 30 months	Over 30 months	Total
<b>Weight per Carcass</b>	30.2kg	49.2kg	-
<b>Scotland Production (tonnes)</b>	11,566	4,182	15,748
<b>Annual Disposal Cost Saving at current prices</b>	£926,000	£335,000	<Redacted>

<sup>[1]</sup> Data supplied by the Scottish Association of Meat Wholesalers (SAMW)

<b>Projected Savings over 4 year period</b>	£3.7m	£1.3m	£5m
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- 2.3 By removing some parts of the carcass from the SRM list, an opportunity also emerges to generate an income stream. For example, there would be the potential for the use of intestines (average of 16.8kg per head in bovines) for sausage casings, and intestinal fat (13.4kg per head) could also go into the food-chain. This could potentially bring the total value to £12 -14m over four years. These figures are illustrative only and based on market prices in April 2015.
- 2.4 Projected figures assume unchanged disposal costs, although it is possible that these could rise on a per unit basis, due to the smaller volumes being rendered. Furthermore, the calculations are based on current approximated prices for ABPs which are subject to market variation. ABPs have had stronger values in the past and may rise or fall in the future.
- 2.5 The change from CR to NR status could mean the use of a different classification of SRM tissues. The European Commission recently agreed proposals to relax controls on SRM for those countries with NR status (bringing EU rules more in line with OIE requirements for non-EU countries). The classification of what is deemed to be SRM for these countries will change: **only the brain, skull, eyes and spinal cord of bovine animals aged over 12 months will remain classified as SRM.**
- 2.6 It should be stressed however that the reduction in SRM controls has only been applicable on a country (Member State), not regional basis in the past, so BSE NR status on a regionalised basis does not inevitably lead to a reduction in SRM controls.

And links: Public consultation

<https://consult.gov.scot/animal-health-and-welfare/application-for-bse-negligible-risk/>

Actual document link

[https://consult.gov.scot/animal-health-and-welfare/application-for-bse-negligible-risk/supporting\\_documents/447730\\_P2.pdf](https://consult.gov.scot/animal-health-and-welfare/application-for-bse-negligible-risk/supporting_documents/447730_P2.pdf)

I am wary here that you are an economist <Redacted> and I am not!

Nick

**From:** <Redacted>  
**Sent:** 19 October 2018 14:49  
**To:** <Redacted>  
**Cc:** <Redacted>  
**Subject:** RE: Figures

Hi Nick ,

The base figures were taken from the Scottish Government consultation paper but if you have a lower figure please share it with us and we can try and reconcile the difference. I have heard lower figures from some in the industry but not sure to what extent that is a gross or net figure or indeed was pre change hypothetical figure know overtaken by a real world actual figure when all the other elements of the marketplace come into play (see below)

The 420,000 head is the round number total for Scottish born cattle slaughtered in Scotland so is not a Scotch qualified figure, which would be slightly lower for various reasons.

In terms of changes in volumes of Cat3 and Cat 1 materials we would not have any of that information in QMS. However, we have to recognise that the criteria for switching NR SRM comes with plant protocols that can make it too challenging to consider. For a plant with a significant number of non Scottish CR cattle then they may be able to manage these protocols and sperate CR and NR grade SRM in plant. Some others with one or two CR cattle in their kill may simply say the challenge of managing the separation of CR and NR SRM is too difficult and just continue to use CR SRM rules. The challenge is made more complicated by the potential for SRM disposal deals to be priced on collecting all cats of ABP as a “deal” and the potential loss of some elements of ABP may change the overall balance of the contract cost of moving SRM. If you wish I can try and explain that on the phone!!

Regards

<Redacted>  
<Redacted>  
<Redacted>  
<Redacted>  
<Redacted>  
<Redacted>  
<REDACTED> <Redacted>  
<Redacted> <Redacted>  
<Redacted> <Redacted>

**From:** Ambrose N (Nick) Dr <Redacted>  
**Sent:** 19 October 2018 13:54  
**To:** <Redacted>  
**Cc:** <Redacted>  
**Subject:** RE: Figures

Thanks <Redacted>  
Sorry for the delay,

This looks higher than the figure we had 18 months ago. Trying to understand this better as we may be asked as well: are the cattle numbers BSE NR eligible cattle, or

Scotch qualified (we discussed this at the time of implementation of NR via the checker). I also wondered if you had any additional/updated information from the abattoir and/or rendering sector on the extent to which the changes in Cat.3/Cat.1 volumes after the change had affected throughput – and hence cost/price?

Grateful for any feedback.  
Thanks  
Nick

**From:** <Redacted>  
**Sent:** 19 October 2018 12:25  
**To:** <Redacted>  
**Cc:** <Redacted>  
**Subject:** Figures

Hi Nick: As discussed, see below <Redacted> workings ref the figures I mentioned.  
Thanks  
<Redacted>

If we look at the consultation for NR then we find them using the following

Cost saving by not paying for disposal over four years	£5m
Potential sales revenue over 4 years end £12m)	£14m (lower
So for the industry that is a turnaround over four years of £17m)	£19m (lower end
Or per year (lower end £4,25m)	£4.75m
Which on the basis of Scottish animals killed in Scotland Of around 420,000 per year becomes per head (£10 per head lower value)	£11

<Redacted>  
<Redacted>  
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<REDACTED> <Redacted>  
<Redacted> <Redacted>  
<Redacted> <Redacted>  
<Redacted> <Redacted>

**Email 13 (See Attachment 5)**  
Please see attached result memo for BSE case 18/00003

**Thanks**  
<Redacted>

<Redacted>

<Redacted>

**Email 14**

Hi <Redacted>  
(cc: as before)

Many thanks.

I hope you have a good weekend when it comes,  
Jenny

**JENNY PURCELL**

BVD Policy Manager | Scottish Government | Animal Health and Welfare Division |  
Disease Prevention Team | P Spur | Saughton House | Broomhouse Drive |  
EDINBURGH | EH11 3XD  
T<Redacted>| E<Redacted>

**From:** <Redacted>  
**Sent:** 19 October 2018 16:04  
**To:** <Redacted>  
**Cc:** <Redacted>  
**Subject:** RE: BSE case in Aberdeenshire - managing press following farmer's statement earlier today

I don't think we have, I will check with comms – all this happened whilst I was in a meeting. I believe that the breed had already been put out there by other comments but happy to look into it.  
<Redacted> do you have a contact in the AA breed society?

**From:** Purcell J (Jenny)<<[Redacted](#)>>  
**Sent:** 19 October 2018 15:52  
**To:** <Redacted>  
**Cc:** <[Redacted](#)>  
**Subject:** BSE case in Aberdeenshire - managing press following farmer's statement earlier today

Hi <Redacted>  
(cc: Ian, Sheila and Nick as discussed)

A quick thought on the BSE case in Aberdeenshire: now that the farmer has chosen to make a public statement, we wonder if there might be questions arising from possible associated publicity about the <Redacted>breed? Would you be able to alert your contacts in the <Redacted>breed society about the potential for press interest? I know that NFUS has provided support to the farmer over the media interest in his case, and you may well have already addressed this aspect.

Thanks to you (and everyone at NFUS) for your on-going support in fielding enquiries about the BSE case. Happy to discuss.

Best wishes,  
Jenny

**JENNY PURCELL**

BVD Policy Manager | Scottish Government | Animal Health and Welfare Division |  
Disease Prevention Team | P Spur | Saughton House | Broomhouse Drive |  
EDINBURGH | EH11 3XD  
T:<Redacted>| E:<Redacted>

**Email 15**

Hi <Redacted>

[This page](#) provides the information relating to this enquiry including a map showing areas of Scotland that have a derogation from testing fallen stock for BSE.

<https://www.gov.scot/Topics/farmingrural/Agriculture/animal-welfare/Diseases/disease/bse/advice/testing>

European TSE legislation allows this derogation for specific areas with low livestock density where there is no fallen stock collection arrangements.

Nick

**From:** <Redacted>

**Sent:** 19 October 2018 14:17

**To:** <Redacted>

**Cc:** <Redacted>

**Subject:** Query from member of the public

Hi Nick: We've just received this email from what appears to be a concerned member of the public regarding BSE controls on Orkney. Obviously we are keen to reassure this individual but my understanding is there is a derogation in place for the islands which means cattle which die on-farm would be buried without testing. Any advice gratefully received.

Thanks

<Redacted>

<Redacted>

<Redacted>

<Redacted>

<REDACTED> <Redacted>

<Redacted> <Redacted>

<Redacted> <Redacted>

<Redacted> <Redacted>

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

**From:** <Redacted>

**Sent:** 19 October 2018 13:36

**To:** <Redacted>

**Subject:** BSE

I've been listening to re-assuring statements from QMS, NFU and Government sources about the BSE case at <Redacted>. If I lived in the NE, I'd be content that the matter was probably under control.

I, however, live on Orkney, where there is no abattoir and no rendering facility. In

Orkney, fallen animals are buried on the farm, complete with all the nervous system parts which the above organisations assure us are removed and destroyed at an abattoir.

What testing regime exists here, of fallen animals, to ensure that an isolated case of BSE is not 'missed', and that the buried carcass is 'safe'.

If there are no robust safeguards, it is obvious that an infected carcass may be buried, and that potentially infected offspring may not be identified and therefore enter the human foodchain.

Can you give me detailed information (not bland assurances) that persuades me that Orkney ( and possibly other island beef ) is safe.

A local NFU rep. was on Radio Orkney at lunchtime, telling us that the farmer in <Redacted> 'did the right thing', but did not address any issues relating to Orkney.

Yours,

<Redacted>

### **Email 16**

I think we should. Cost is small. The likelihood of it helping is smaller, and the chance of it hindering is even smaller still, but doing it shows we aren't being complacent which was the one thing that they seemed interested in this morning. So good to be able to say we are doing more than is legally required.

Anyway I told GMS the cohorts would be tested and implied the calf would too.

S

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

**From:** Murdoch I J (Ian)  
**Sent:** Friday, 19 October 2018 08:26  
**To:** <Redacted>  
**Subject:** RE: SG's input to BSE case

Nick/Sheila

I'm not sure about the testing the offspring, best left as a veterinary decision. On the investigation it would be good to try and get a more accurate timeline. 1 to 2 months will not satisfy Ministers.

Ian

**From:** <Redacted>  
**Sent:** 18 October 2018 18:30  
**To:** <Redacted>**Subject:** SG's input to BSE case

Dear all

I wanted to mention two issues with regards to the next steps by APHA in the above case.

The first is whether SG would like the offspring being tested as well as the cohorts. Offspring testing is not compulsory however in 2015 it was requested by WG. So please could you let me know your thoughts.

The second is about the likely timelines and outcome of the epidemiological report. This is an depth piece of veterinary investigative work and may take 1-2 months to gather all the necessary evidence, analyse it and produce the preliminary report ready for input and comments from other experts in APHA. The report from the 2015 was unable to ascertain the origin of the investigation and I would think that this may be the likely outcome in this case. I am checking that you are comfortable with timelines and outcomes and reassure you that this report will be the result of a team effort by the Veterinary Officer supported by the Specialist Epidemiologists, One Health Veterinarians and BSE Consultant, which by the way, is one of the OIE BSE Experts.

Grateful in advance for your comments. Kind regards  
<Redacted>

**Email 17 (See Attachment 6)**

Please see attached FYI. Thanks.

**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>

**From:** Dick J (Julie)  
**Sent:** 19 October 2018 09:31  
**To:** <Redacted>  
**Cc:** <Redacted>  
**Subject:** BSE Media coverage

Morning

Attached is details of the media around BSE yesterday including social media and online press.

We have social media posts ready around 'beef is safe to eat' and 'surveillance is working'. We are going to hold off sharing these just now.

We will continue to monitor the coverage throughout the day and review this if necessary.

Here's hoping for a quiet Friday ☺

Thanks

Julie

Julie Dick  
Head of ARE Communications  
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate  
Scottish Government  
Saughton House | C1 Spur | EH11 3XD  
<Redacted> Contact us at: [engage.ARE@gov.scot](mailto:engage.ARE@gov.scot)

**Email 18**

Fyi

Sheila, apologies, I meant to copy you into the reply.  
N

**From:** Ambrose N (Nick) Dr  
**Sent:** 19 October 2018 14:50  
**To:** <Redacted>  
**Cc:** <Redacted>  
**Subject:** RE: BSE case\_Symptoms - Japanese authorities enquiry

<Redacted>

The animal was treated for clinical signs of grass staggers, hypomagnesaemia several day as before it died.

Happy for you to pass this to the Japanese authorities. Although this is public knowledge (CVO Scotland, Sheila Voas has talked about this in interviews) I suggest that you let the UK CVO's office know that you are doing so.

Nick

**From:** <Redacted>  
**Sent:** 19 October 2018 12:32  
**To:** <Redacted>  
**Cc:** <Redacted>  
**Subject:** RE: BSE case\_Symptoms?

Thank you – it will provide consistency for all

Kind regards  
<Redacted>

**From:** Ambrose N (Nick) Dr [[<Redacted>](#)]  
**Sent:** 19 October 2018 11:27  
**To:** <Redacted>

**Cc:** <Redacted>

**Subject:** RE: BSE case\_Symptoms?

All,

I aim to talk with CVO Scotland about this. She has been doing interviews and using a form of words that is probably the most appropriate response to this query. I will get back to you.

Nick

**From:** <Redacted>**Sent:** 19 October 2018 10:33

**To:** <Redacted>

**Cc:** <Redacted>

**Subject:** FW: BSE case\_Symptoms?

**Importance:** High

Hi all,

Please can you clarify who would respond to the BSE enquiry forwarded below from <Redacted> APHA Veterinary Adviser and cc me in so we know who to direct similar BSE related enquiries to?

Kindest regards

<Redacted>

---

**From:** <Redacted>

**Sent:** 19 October 2018 10:09

**To:** <Redacted>

**Subject:** FW: BSE case\_Symptoms?

**Importance:** High

<Redacted>

See query below. Who would be best placed to deal with this? I don't think it should be <Redacted> it should be a senior position, and this should be agreed prior with SG

Nick

I have copied you in for SG's views.

Thank you

<Redacted>

---

**From:** <Redacted>

**Sent:** 19 October 2018 09:57

**To:** <Redacted>

**Cc:** <Redacted>

**Subject:** FW: BSE case\_Symptoms?

**Importance:** High

<Redacted>

Do you know the official lines of communication? Other than what is on the SG website I am not aware of any other official lines.

Is this something that Sheila and Christine would be interested in dealing with or would that be more appropriate through PO? Or perhaps the Policy Liaison Team could take this forward?

Thank you

<Redacted>

---

**From:** <Redacted>  
**Sent:** 19 October 2018 09:54  
**To:** <Redacted>  
**Subject:** BSE case\_Symptoms?  
**Importance:** High

Good morning <Redacted>

The Japanese authorities are asking whether there were symptoms when the animal was still alive. I have replied that it was identified at a fallen stock unit. This sorts of implies that there were no symptoms (?) but it is a vague answer. Can you please clarify the official lines as it is likely that we'll have to provide more details?

Thanks very much.

<Redacted>

#### **Email 19**

Thanks <Redacted> you got to this as I was talking to Fay!  
N

**From:** <Redacted>  
**Sent:** 19 October 2018 14:57  
**To:** <Redacted>  
**Cc:** <Redacted>  
**Subject:** RE: BSE Aberdeenshire - Resilience Partners information

All

Please note that APHA in Scotland have an out of hours number for a senior vet which is 0208 225 7250. This number can be used to speak to one of our senior vets about tactical or strategic issues.

It should not be used as the main number for operational issues such as reporting suspect notifiable disease or a welfare problem. In those circumstances please phone 0300 060 0704

Best regards

<Redacted>

**From:** Tough F (Fay) <Redacted>

**Sent:** 19 October 2018 11:45

**To:** <Redacted>

**Cc:** <Redacted>

**Subject:** RE: BSE Aberdeenshire - Resilience Partners information

Nick

Thanks for the very helpful information which I shared with Police yesterday to allow them to be sighted on the locality should media cause an issue.

Police Scotland are wishing to establish an out of hours contact for APHA should it be required over the weekend and they are also keen to confirm what advice has been given to the farmer should they be called to the address for any reason.

If you give me the best contact, I will put the Police Scotland area commander in touch.

Thanks for your continued assistance.

Regards

Fay

### **Fay Tough**

Regional Resilience Coordinator | Scottish Government

North of Scotland Regional Resilience Partnership

Nelson Street Police Office | Aberdeen | AB24 5EQ | <Redacted>

**From:** Ambrose N (Nick) Dr

**Sent:** 18 October 2018 13:47

**To:** <Redacted>>

**Cc:** <Redacted>

**Subject:** RE: BSE Aberdeenshire - Resilience Partners information

Fay,

As discussed just now I can provide the following information on the location of the farm. This information is only for sharing with Category 1 responders on a need to know basis.

The nature of BSE is that unlike diseases such as FMD there is no immediate action to be taken by resilience partners other than APHA and they have arrangements in hand, for that reason I am copying Mick into this mail. Further information is available in the FAQ that has been posted on the SG site (already shared via Clive).

Ministers have asked us to be very mindful of the wellbeing of the farmer, for that reason and because of GDPR we have not shared the name and location. Grateful for every respect to be paid to this wish.

<Redacted>

<REDACTED>

Thanks,  
Nick

**From:** Tough F (Fay)  
**Sent:** 18 October 2018 12:52  
**To:** <Redacted>  
**Cc:** <Redacted>  
**Subject:** BSE Aberdeenshire

Nick

Clive shared the update you kindly provided re BSE, but I am getting a lot on enquiries from partners including Police as to the exact location of the outbreak and further information they might need to know.

Are you the conduit for this and will there be any briefings to provide to partners even by way of reassurance.

Thanks in anticipation for any information.

Regards  
Fay

**Fay Tough**

Regional Resilience Coordinator | Scottish Government  
North of Scotland Regional Resilience Partnership  
Nelson Street Police Office | Aberdeen | AB24 5EQ | Mobile <Redacted> | [<Redacted>](#)

**Email 20**

Ian,

All noted with thanks.

Regards  
Tony

**From:** Murdoch I J (Ian) <Redacted>  
**Sent:** 19 October 2018 09:36  
**To:** <Redacted>  
**Cc:** [<Redacted>](#)  
**Subject:** RE: BSE Notification in Aberdeenshire

Hi <Redacted>

We are taking a very cautious approach to providing personal data that can identify the farmer and I do not think SEPA need the farm location. BSE is not contagious and the risk to public and animal health from this case is extremely low. The restrictions that are in place on the farm are only likely to be for another week and

this is to allow time for the cohorts and offspring of the confirmed BSE case to be culled, a total of 4 animals on the farm. No other restrictions are in place that should impact on SEPA's day to day operations. It is also unlikely that we will be holding any SGoRR meetings for this BSE case.

You may find the FAQ on BSE helpful and we will be updating it as we go on to provide further information on the current BSE case. Here is the link:

<https://www.gov.scot/Topics/farmingrural/Agriculture/animal-welfare/Diseases/disease/bse/BSEfaq>

Sorry if this appears unhelpful. I am at home at the moment but will be in the office later this morning after 10:30 if you want to chat.

Ian

***Ian Murdoch***

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

**From:** Waite S (Sheelagh)  
**Sent:** 19 October 2018 08:11  
**To:** <Redacted>  
**Subject:** FW: BSE Notification in Aberdeenshire

Morning Ian,

Please see the email below. Would you (or someone from your team) be able to respond to Tony please? 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>

**From:** <Redacted>  
**Sent:** 19 October 2018 08:01  
**To:** <Redacted>  
**Cc:** <Redacted>  
**Subject:** BSE Notification in Aberdeenshire

Good Morning Sheelagh,

I am a <Redacted> with SEPA and the SEPA Agency Management Team have asked if we may be given further information regarding the BSE notification in Aberdeenshire.

Specifically, would it be possible to provide SEPA with the location of the farm involved so that we may ensure we maintain tight biosecurity precautions during priority catchment visits, thereby maintaining an acceptable and appropriate approach by all of our relevant staff in order to support you and other agencies involved.

In the meantime non urgent site visits in the area have been suspended until more detail is known.

As a <Redacted> with SC clearance I can assure you that any information provided would not be shared outwith SEPA, and only relevant and appropriate SEPA staff would be provided with necessary information.

I'd also be grateful if you could advise me of any proposed SGoRR teleconference meetings so that we may support other agency colleagues as required.

Please feel free to call me if you wish further clarification or discussion at any time.

Kind Regards

<Redacted>

**Email 21**

Fine from my side

**From:** Murdoch I J (Ian)

**Sent:** 19 October 2018 15:34

**To:** <Redacted>

**Subject:** BSE - Updated BSE FAQ - for comment

Kate/Luke

We have updated the BSE FAQ and added a section on the current BSE case that should hopefully fend of general questions. Can I have your comments please before we post this online (new questions/sections highlighted)

**Q. What is the public health risk associated with the discovery of a case of classical BSE in Scotland?**

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 Official Veterinarians

and Meat Hygiene Inspectors in All Scottish slaughterhouses will continue to work to ensure that in respect of BSE controls, the safety of consumers remains a priority.

**Q. What is Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy?**

Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) is a disease in cattle. It belongs to a group of diseases called Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSEs) that affect the brain and nervous system of humans and animals. The diseases are characterised by a degeneration of brain tissue giving it a sponge-like appearance

**Q. What is Classical BSE?**

Epidemic classical BSE occurs through the consumption of contaminated feed. Whilst classical BSE was identified as a significant problem in the 1990s, its occurrence has markedly decreased over the past years, as a result of the successful implementation of effective control measures.

**Q. When was the last confirmed case of Classical BSE in Scotland?**

October 2018, from an animal born in 2013. The case was detected during routine surveillance of fallen stock cattle. The animal was not presented for slaughter and did not enter the food chain. The last case prior to then was in 2008, from an animal born in 1994.

**Q. What is the current situation in Scotland?**

A case of classical BSE has been confirmed in a pedigree beef cow in Aberdeenshire. Further information on this case can be found [below](#).

Prior to the most recent BSE case, Scotland had been BSE free since 2009. In the years before that, there were relatively low numbers of BSE cases compared to the peak of the epidemic when there were 2208 clinical cases in the 1993 . The marked decrease in the number of cases detected through passive surveillance is consistent with the long tail previously predicted by epidemiologists.

**Q. When will we know the cause of the outbreak?**

The Animal Health Agency (APHA) is investigating the source of the outbreak and will update in due course.

**Q. Does a confirmed Classical case of BSE affect Scotland's negligible risk BSE status?**

Yes, a confirmed case of classical BSE will alter Scotland's BSE status to Controlled Risk. Scotland will now have the same status as England and Wales.

### **Q. What is Scotland doing to monitor BSE?**

An active BSE surveillance programme has been in place since 2001 and is carried out on all fallen livestock that die on farm over 48 months old by approved facilities. Scotland takes BSE samples from over 20,000 fallen cattle each year.

### **Q. Can humans get BSE?**

A. An extremely rare form of spongiform encephalopathy called variant(v) Creutzfeld-Jakob Disease (vCJD) occurs in humans and is likely to be caused by consuming meat from a cow that has been infected with BSE, a similar prion disease to vCJD. Since the link between vCJD and BSE was discovered in 1996, strict controls have proved very effective in preventing meat from infected cattle entering the food chain.

### **Q. What are signs of BSE in cattle?**

Cattle affected by BSE experience progressive degeneration of the nervous system. Affected animals may display changes in temperament (nervousness or aggression), abnormal posture, incoordination and difficulty in rising, decreased milk production, or loss of condition without noticeable loss of appetite. The causative agent of the disease is not completely characterised, and there is neither any treatment nor a vaccine to prevent the disease. The incubation period is from 2 to 8 years. Following the onset of clinical signs, the animal's condition deteriorates. This process usually takes from 2 weeks to 6 months. Any farmer with concerns should immediately seek veterinary advice.

### **Q. How is BSE actually spread?**

The disease is not contagious so it does not spread. Scientific opinion based on the known evidence is that it can be transmitted by infected feed, and a ban on feeding any animal protein to ruminants was put in place in 1996.

The following controls are currently in force in the UK:

- The feed ban applies to all ruminants and all non-ruminant farmed species.
- Under the feed ban it is illegal to feed (with certain exceptions e.g. milk and eggs) animal protein to ruminants and it is illegal to feed (with certain exceptions) processed animal protein to farmed animals.

### **Q. How did BSE emerge?**

There are different scientific hypotheses concerning the origins of BSE. The disease may have been caused by feeding cattle rendered

protein produced from the carcasses of cattle with a previously unidentified transmissible spongiform encephalopathy (TSE). That was the preferred conclusion of the BSE Phillips Enquiry into its origins.

**Q. What is the agent that causes BSE?**

Research suggests that a pathogenic form of a normally occurring protein known as a prion (PrP.) is the cause.

The pathogenic form of the prion protein (PrP<sup>Sc</sup>) is extremely resistant to heat and to normal sterilization processes, making it difficult to inactivate with standard methods used to process human food and animal feed. Although rendering and other processes can partially inactivate PrP<sup>Sc</sup>, the risk mitigation strategies (for meat and meat products) rely mainly on the elimination of tissues and organs known to harbour BSE infectivity in infected animals, which are known as specified risk material (SRM).

**Q. What is specified risk material (SRM)?**

A. Specified risk material (SRM) is those parts of cattle, sheep and goats that are most likely to pose a risk of infectivity if the animal which it comes from was infected with a transmissible spongiform encephalopathy (TSE) prion. It is essential, therefore, that it is removed from both the human and animal food chains and destroyed.

**Q. What is a prion?**

Prions are the only non-DNA-based agent capable of infecting and reproducing themselves in a living host. Proteins similar to prions already exist in the nervous tissue cell membrane in normal animals, but in a harmless form. After an incubation period of many years, prions in an infected host reproduce by recruiting the host's similar, harmless protein and changing its shape to that of the prion.

**Q. Are there any known tests to detect the disease in cattle?**

Currently, there is no test to detect the disease in a live animal. BSE is confirmed by either histopathological examination of brain tissue or by the detection of the abnormal form of the prion protein via one of several methods, also requiring brain tissue.

**Q. Is cow's milk and milk products a source of TSE?**

No. Scientific research indicates that TSEs cannot be transmitted via milk or milk products, even if the milk comes from a TSE-infected animal.

## **Confirmed Classical BSE case in Aberdeenshire (as of 19 October 2018)**

- A case of Classical BSE has been confirmed in a cow from a pedigree farm in Aberdeenshire, Scotland on 18 October 2018. A Scottish Government press release can be found [here](#).
- The farm operates as a closed herd and cattle are grass fed.
- The animal had been showing signs of illness and a private veterinary practitioner diagnosed and treated her for hypomagnesaemia (grass staggers) several days before she died.
- The animal was sampled for BSE as per surveillance requirements to test all cattle over 48 months old that die on farm. Initial test results could not rule out the animal being positive for BSE and further confirmatory testing was carried out.
- The Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) were notified according to standard protocol and movement restrictions have been in place on the farm since BSE was first suspected.
- Preliminary investigations by APHA have identified 3 cohorts and 1 offspring. Cohorts are animals born in the same herd which have been potentially exposed to the same feed. No cohorts have left the farm.
- APHA will enact further controls by slaughtering these cohort and offspring animals. All animals will be tested for BSE. These animal do not pose an immediate risk to other animals or public health and their slaughter is purely precautionary.
- Food Standards Scotland and Health Protection Scotland are aware and state there is no change to risks to human health because appropriate controls are, and already were in place.
- APHA will carry out a further detailed epidemiological investigations on the farm to establish, if possible, the source of the disease.

### ***Ian Murdoch***

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

### **Email 22**

All

For info. An update from Sheila on the cause of the recent BSE case.

Ian

**From:** Voas S (Sheila)

**Sent:** 19 October 2018 15:29

**To:** <Redacted>

**Cc:** <Redacted>

**Subject:** RE: Confirmation of a BSE case on a farm in Aberdeenshire - IMMEDIATE - 18 October 2018

Cab Sec

CC as before + Permanent Secretary

At this point we cannot say for certain how or why this animal developed BSE. The spongiform encephalopathies are an interesting group of diseases, some of which are transmissible, though the consumption of infectious proteins called prions, and some of which are sporadic and spontaneous. The epidemic in the late 1980s and 1990s was of the transmissible type and was linked to the recycling of ruminant protein, such as meat and bone meal, back into ruminant feeding stuffs. It was this type that was linked with the human disease, new variant Creutzfeld –Jacob disease (vCJD). It is considered most probable that infection through the feed route occurs in the first 12 months of life, and there is no evidence that the disease can be vertically transmitted ie from mother to calf.

Sporadic cases are usually the result of a spontaneous genetic mutation which results in abnormal proteins being produced. Atypical BSE is in this category, but it is widely believed that some classical cases are also of this type.

In the current case investigations so far show absolutely no evidence of any proteins being fed to this animal, and so contamination of feeding stuffs with contaminated proteins is unlikely. The farm fed only grass and conserved forages at the time of birth of this animal, although in the last 2 years (only) they have introduced some creep feed to calves around the time of weaning. This is from a reputable source and APHA investigations show that it has been correctly fed and stored. Additionally food for the companion animals is stored separately so it is highly unlikely that this animal consumed cat or dog food which conceivably could contain ruminant material, but only of a quality suitable for human consumption.

There is also no history of BSE on the farm, so contaminated burial sites, from the very early days when burial was not specifically prevented, is unlikely.

So in summary, we cannot say with any certainty where this has come from, but there is absolutely no evidence to support the hypothesis that this is the transmissible form of the disease acquired through feeding.

Investigations are ongoing. The epidemiological investigation will look into this preliminary information in much more detail. Things such as the application of meat and bone meal fertiliser to the garden and the calves getting accidental access to the garden will be considered, to consider other hypothetical but unlikely possible exposures. The lab are also running a mouse bioassay to determine further

characterisation of the disease, which may help to determine transmissibility and whether this is as a result of a genetic mutation. This testing involved inoculating mice with infectious brain material from this animal and looking at changes in behaviour temperament and ultimately euthanasing the mice and looking for changes in their brains to compare with previous cases. This takes a minimum of 250 days. However even after all of this it is possible that we will never be able to definitively say why this case occurred nor what its origin was.

I apologise for being unable to be more precise at present but we will keep you informed as investigations progress.

Please ask if you have any further queries.

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

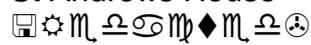
<Redacted>

**From:** Veitch K (Kevin) **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy  
**Sent:** 19 October 2018 13:16  
**To:** <Redacted>  
**Cc:** <Redacted>  
**Subject:** RE: Confirmation of a BSE case on a farm in Aberdeenshire - IMMEDIATE  
- 18 October 2018

Nick

Mr Ewing has noted and asked if we know how this animal actually contracted BSE?

Kind regards

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


**Email 23**

**From:** Boddice L (Luke) <Redacted>  
**Sent:** 19 October 2018 12:22  
**To:** <Redacted>  
**Cc:** <Redacted>  
**Subject:** RE: Bid - BSE - Landward

That's the ambition. I'll confirm logistics and timing and come back to you.

**From:** Waite S (Sheelagh) **On Behalf Of** Voas S (Sheila)  
**Sent:** 19 October 2018 12:12  
**To:** <Redacted>  
**Cc:** <Redacted>  
**Subject:** RE: Bid - BSE - Landward

Luke,

Sheila is happy to take this on. Will filming be outside Saughton House again? Thanks.

**Sheelagh Waite**  
Animal Health and Welfare Division  
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate  
The Scottish Government  
P Spur – Saughton House  
Broomhouse Drive  
EDINBURGH  
EH11 3XD

<Redacted>

**From:** Boddice L (Luke)  
**Sent:** 19 October 2018 11:47  
**To:** <Redacted>  
**Cc:** <Redacted>  
**Subject:** Bid - BSE - Landward

Sheila,

BBC Landward would like to do a short clip with you Monday lunchtime for next week's show. They are also speaking to NFUS and QMS as part of the segment. If possible, I would suggest we accept this bid. Hoping that this is the last one.

Grateful if you could let me know,

Luke

**Luke Boddice | Comms Greener**

Scottish Government, St Andrew's House  
<Redacted>

## Email 24

**From:** Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment <Redacted>  
**Sent:** 20 October 2018 15:56  
**To:** <Redacted>  
**Cc:** <Redacted>  
**Subject:** Re: Thainstone mart Friday 19 Oct/CoHI Elgin 22/10/18

Sheila

Ms Gougeon has requested a member of your team with detailed knowledge of BSE provides official support at the mart. She's also requested further detailed background information on the BSE outbreak during the '90s.

Thanks

Mariella  
<Redacted>

**From:** Voas S (Sheila)  
**Sent:** Saturday, 20 October 2018 12:55  
**To:** <Redacted>  
**Cc:** <Redacted>  
**Subject:** RE: Thainstone mart Friday 19 Oct/CoHI Elgin 22/10/18

All,

If this visit is on Friday morning I'm probably going to be unavailable as I'm at an employment tribunal in Aberdeen employment as a witness, having heard the appeal. I've been told I need to be there on Thursday afternoon and that it will probably extend into Friday morning. If it doesn't then I would come along anyway.

Depending on Ms Gougeon's preference one of my team with detailed BSE knowledge can be available or (I'm sure) local RPID staff who have thorough knowledge of local farming, and the market. I have copied in <Redacted> and <Redacted> so they can check who might be available from RPID at Thainstone.

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:** 19 October 2018 16:39  
**To:** <Redacted>  
**Cc:** <Redacted>  
**Subject:** RE: Thainstone mart Friday 19 Oct/CoHI Elgin 22/10/18

ThanksHeather

Kate Higgins  
Special advisor to the First Minister  
Rural Economy and Connectivity

<Redacted>

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Sent with BlackBerry Work

**From:** Curran H (Heather) <Redacted>>  
**Date:** Friday, 19 Oct 2018, 4:32 pm  
**To:** <Redacted>  
**Cc:** <Redacted>  
**Subject:** RE: Thainstone mart Friday 19 Oct/CoHI Elgin 22/10/18

So just spoke with the girl in Thainstone and she needs to check with the CE (who has left for the day) and will get back to me first thing on Monday.

Heather Curran|Livestock Policy|B1-1 Saughton House, Broomhouse Drive,Edinburgh,EH11SXD|<Redacted>

**From:** Higgins K (Kate)  
**Sent:** 19 October 2018 16:29  
**To:** <Redacted>  
**Cc:** <Redacted>  
**Subject:** RE: Thainstone mart Friday 19 Oct/CoHI Elgin 22/10/18

In principle though, yes

Kate Higgins  
Special advisor to the First Minister  
Rural Economy and Connectivity

<Redacted>

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Sent with BlackBerry Work

**From:** Curran H (Heather) <Redacted>  
**Date:** Friday, 19 Oct 2018, 4:26 pm  
**To:** <Redacted>  
**Cc:** <Redacted>  
**Subject:** RE: Thainstone mart Friday 19 Oct/CoHI Elgin 22/10/18

I'll check, before I phone are we okay if they suggest that they do something?

Heather Curran|Livestock Policy|B1-1 Saughton House, Broomhouse Drive,Edinburgh,EH11SXD|<Redacted>

**From:** Higgins K (Kate)  
**Sent:** 19 October 2018 16:24  
**To:** <Redacted>  
**Cc:** <Redacted>  
**Subject:** RE: Thainstone mart Friday 19 Oct/CoHI Elgin 22/10/18

Can we check with Thainstone first? If they have no objection spads view is that we should publicise

Kate Higgins  
Special advisor to the First Minister  
Rural Economy and Connectivity

<Redacted>

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Sent with BlackBerry Work

**From:** Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment <Redacted>  
**Date:** Friday, 19 Oct 2018, 2:14 pm  
**To:** <Redacted>  
**Cc:** <Redacted>  
**Subject:** RE: Thainstone mart Friday 19 Oct/CoHI Elgin 22/10/18

All

Ms Gougeon would welcome advice as to whether we should publicise her attendance at the mart on Thursday. Is there a way to target those that'll be attending the mart? She suggests it may be more beneficial if people know she'll be there.

Thanks

*Mariella Matheson*

Private Secretary to the Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment

<Redacted>

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**From:** Dick J (Julie)  
**Sent:** 19 October 2018 12:35  
**To:** <Redacted>  
**Cc:** <Redacted>  
**Subject:** RE: Thainstone mart Friday 19 Oct/CoHI Elgin 22/10/18

Hi Heather/Kevin/Derek

Could you provide Mariella with briefing to support Ms Gougeon's visit

Thanks

Julie

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

**From:** Dick J (Julie)  
**Sent:** 19 October 2018 12:19  
**To:** <Redacted>  
**Cc:** <Redacted>  
**Subject:** RE: Thainstone mart Friday 19 Oct/CoHI Elgin 22/10/18

Hi All

I have spoken to Mariella

There are 3 sales next week, Thursday works best for Ms Gougeon, who will attend 9.30 – 10.30.

<http://www.anmarts.co.uk/event-details.cfm/eID/1974>

**Thursday 25th October 2018**

**Weekly Sale of Cast Cows & Bulls, Prime Cattle and Prime Sheep**

09:30am Sale of Cast Cows, Bulls and OTM Cattle

11:30am Sale of Prime Cattle

01:00pm Sale of Prime Sheep

Policy colleagues – could you provide Miss Gougeon with any briefing she will require for the visit

Thanks

Julie

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

**From:** Matheson M (Mariella) **On Behalf Of** Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment

**Sent:** 18 October 2018 18:07

**To:** <Redacted>

**Cc:** <Redacted>

**Subject:** RE: Thainstone mart Friday 19 Oct/CoHI Elgin 22/10/18

Kate et all

Ms Gougeon has requested, if possible, to undertake a visit to Thainstone next week. Can officials clarify; is there an auction at Thainstone next week? If so I'll schedule something in the diary.

Thanks

*Mariella Matheson*

Private Secretary to the Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment

<Redacted>

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**From:** Higgins K (Kate)

**Sent:** 18 October 2018 15:32

**To:** <Redacted>

**Cc:** <Redacted>

**Subject:** Thainstone mart Friday 19 Oct/CoHI Elgin 22/10/18

Minister, Thainstone mart is on tomorrow morning and is likely to be busy with Aberdeenshire farmers.

I've discussed with comms and we think this would be a very good opportunity for you to go and be available and visible in support of local farmers who are likely to be feeling anxious about the current situation – there are also risks about not putting “boots on the ground” at such a high profile gathering in the local calendar. Can your attendance be considered?

Cab Sec – also conscious that you are going to Elgin for CoHI on Monday and that the location of the farm is not that far (in North East terms!) – while the farmer is not actually there currently and might not be back on Monday, you might want to consider offering to visit privately on the way to or from CoHI?

Kate

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

<Redacted>

Scottish Government  
St Andrew's House, 2 Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG  
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## Email 25

**From:** <Redacted>

**Sent:** 19 October 2018 14:17

**To:** <Redacted>

**Cc:** <Redacted>

**Subject:** Query from member of the public

Hi Nick: We've just received this email from what appears to be a concerned member of the public regarding BSE controls on Orkney. Obviously we are keen to reassure this individual but my understanding is there is a derogation in place for the islands which means cattle which die on-farm would be buried without testing. Any advice gratefully received.

Thanks  
Carol

Carol McLaren  
Director of Marketing & Communications

<REDACTED> <Redacted>  
<Redacted> <Redacted>  
<Redacted> <Redacted>  
<Redacted> <Redacted>



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

From: <Redacted>  
Sent: 19 October 2018 13:36  
To: <Redacted>  
Subject: BSE

I've been listening to re-assuring statements from QMS, NFU and Government sources about the BSE case at <Redacted>. If I lived in the NE, I'd be content that the matter was probably under control.

I, however, live on Orkney, where there is no abattoir and no rendering facility. In Orkney, fallen animals are buried on the farm, complete with all the nervous system parts which the above organisations assure us are removed and destroyed at an abattoir.

What testing regime exists here, of fallen animals, to ensure that an isolated case of BSE is not 'missed', and that the buried carcass is 'safe'.

If there are no robust safeguards, it is obvious that an infected carcass may be buried, and that potentially infected offspring may not be identified and therefore enter the human foodchain.

Can you give me detailed information (not bland assurances) that persuades me that Orkney ( and possibly other island beef ) is safe.

A local NFU rep. was on Radio Orkney at lunchtime, telling us that the farmer in Lumsden 'did the right thing', but did not address any issues relating to Orkney.

Yours,

<Redacted>

#### **Email 26**

**From:** <Redacted>  
**Sent:** 19 October 2018 14:40  
**To:** <Redacted>  
**Cc:** <Redacted>**Subject:** Anything we can do to help?  
**Importance:** High

Hi Nick

I know <Redacted> has been liaising with Jamie on the confirmed classical BSE case in Aberdeenshire, but I just wanted to check that you have everything you need from BCMS and whether there is anything we could help

with. I appreciate the handling sensitivities and more than happy to work on strictly confidential basis keeping those involved to a minimum if it helps. I am assuming you are not reliant on us supplying any CTS data for tracing purposes.

Either way, just wanted to reassure you we are on standby if you need us to help or if you think there is anything we should be aware of.

Feel free to call if you want to discuss. Thanks.

<Redacted>

### **Email 27**

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

**Sent:** 19 October 2018 11:02

**To:** <Redacted>

**Subject:** FW: Official Sensitive: Heads Up to BSE Related Media Release - China

**Importance:** High

Please see email chain below FYI. Thanks.

### **Sheelagh Waite**

Animal Health and Welfare Division  
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate  
The Scottish Government  
P Spur – Saughton House  
Broomhouse Drive  
EDINBURGH  
EH11 3XD

<Redacted>

**From:** <Redacted>

**Sent:** 19 October 2018 10:55

**To:** <Redacted>

**Cc:** <Redacted>

**Subject:** FW: Official Sensitive: Heads Up to BSE Related Media Release - China

**Importance:** High

Sheila

To see below

*Margaret*

PA to:-lan Davidson  
Head of Agriculture Policy Division  
The Scottish Government  
<Redacted>

Mail: D Spur, Saughton House,  
Broomhouse Drive,  
Edinburgh,  
EH11 3XD



Scottish Government  
Riaghaltas na h-Alba  
gov.scot

---

**From:** <Redacted>  
**Sent:** 19 October 2018 17:29  
**To:** <Redacted>  
**Cc:** <Redacted>  
**Subject:** Official Sensitive: Heads Up to BSE Related Media Release - China

Ian,

China, of course, will not be the focus for now, but just for information, the advice back from Food and Drink colleagues here and next steps.

I'll keep you posted as I hear more.

<Redacted>

Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [Weibo](#) and [Tencent Video](#)

---

**From:** <Redacted>  
**Sent:** 19 October 2018 15:15  
**To:** <Redacted>  
**Subject:** FW: Official Sensitive: Heads Up to BSE Related Media Release

FYI

---

**From:** <Redacted>  
**Sent:** 19 October 2018 15:02  
**To:** <Redacted>  
**Cc:** <Redacted>  
**Subject:** RE: Official Sensitive: Heads Up to BSE Related Media Release

<Redacted>

I'm copying in <Redacted> as she's now fully taken over my role, but as she's travelling today I'm covering.

The only previous history we have to go on, in terms of assessing likely decisions, is a Brazil BSE case, which did result in a fairly swift BSE ban. But the UK's complex BSE history, the extensive technical and political history of us securing the ban lifting, and the overall current political relationship are all so different to Brazil, so we can't really draw a conclusion about the likelihood of a ban reinstatement, but certainly we should prepare for it.

We have spoken to several Government experts today, who have advised consistently that the best course of action is for us to provide (send via <Redacted> and <Redacted>) the technical information they need to be able to advise senior decision makers on a technical basis rather than the decision being solely political or based on the concern of the Chinese public reception. So we would be grateful if Defra could provide, at the earliest possible opportunity, an epidemiological or similar report which covers tracing activities, source investigations, spread investigations, the control measures being activated such as tracing and culling of cohorts. It would be helpful if you could provide more detail about the public and animal health impact than is in the Q&A we have. Also the Q&A refers to the year of birth of the last 2015 case and not this animal so we'll need that (media coverage says 5 years but we'd like Defra confirmation).

This approach suggests that we should avoid proactively raising with senior officials in GACC and MARA, while we compile the necessary information they will need. Which is the model that China would follow in the case of instances of disease / similar in China. If we approach them too proactively above technical level they may well feel the obligation to reinstate the ban without the balanced facts. For that reason I would also delay your letter back to CVO Zhang because it would be odd for you to send without mentioning this. But we should review this daily because if the technical information takes too long to arrive then we can't remain low key forever.

To be aware the Hong Kong authorities approached our consulate today asking for information (but not expressing concern). We've given <Redacted> in the consulate the public lines for her to use – I've not cc'd her into this because she's not on OFF SEN, but be good if your team / Jen can stay in touch with her.

For info, the situation has hit the Chinese press already, so we're watching what they say.

<Redacted>

---

**From:** <Redacted>  
**Sent:** 19 October 2018 14:28  
**To:** <Redacted>  
**Subject:** FW: Official Sensitive: Heads Up to BSE Related Media Release  
**Importance:** High

---

**From:** <Redacted>  
**Sent:** 18 October 2018 18:48  
**To:** <Redacted>  
**Cc:** <Redacted>

**Subject:** RE: Official Sensitive: Heads Up to BSE Related Media Release  
**Importance:** High

<https://news.gov.scot/news/bse>

<< File: BSE FAQ - October 2018.docx >>

Both,

Scotland has confirmed this morning a case of classical BSE in a Scottish born and reared cow. The cow was classed as fallen stock, as that is it wasn't able to go into the food chain as a matter of course, and was detected as part of our routine surveillance of all fallen stock.

- This does NOT change the UK OIE controlled risk status.
- It will push back to 2024 when the UK as a whole can apply for negligible risk status.
- The infected animal was found as part of our routine surveillance. We test over 120,000 animals a year in the UK, Scotland tests over 20,000 fallen stock cattle as part of our routine surveillance. This detection demonstrates our system working effectively.
- I remain confident in our BSE controls as colleagues in China and Japan have inspected.

Very keen to know any reactions in China and Japan to this news.

Very happy to provide any other information that you would like.

<Redacted>

---

**From:** <Redacted>

**Sent:** 18 October 2018 10:59

**To:** <Redacted>

**Cc:** <Redacted>

**Subject:** Official Sensitive: Heads Up to BSE Related Media Release

Both,

When I have it I will be sending you a copy of a BSE related media release and some accompanying lines to take. There is an announcement being made by Scotland at 11am our time.

Best regards

<Redacted>

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## Email 28

**From:** Matheson M (Mariella) <Redacted> **On Behalf Of** Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment  
**Sent:** 19 October 2018 13:24  
**To:** <Redacted>  
**Cc:** <Redacted>  
**Subject:** RE: HOLD 09:30- 10:30 Visit Thainstone Mart

Thanks Sheila

The plan so far is for Ms Gougeon to be shown around the mart and to be visible should anyone wish to speak to her. I'll let you know if Ms Gougeon would like Sheila to be present.

Thanks

*Mariella Matheson*

Private Secretary to the Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment

<Redacted>

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

**From:** Waite S (Sheelagh) **On Behalf Of** Voas S (Sheila)  
**Sent:** 19 October 2018 13:09  
**To:** <Redacted>  
**Subject:** Accepted: HOLD 09:30- 10:30 Visit Thainstone Mart  
**When:** 25 October 2018 09:30-10:30 (UTC+00:00) Dublin, Edinburgh, Lisbon, London.  
**Where:** Thainstone Agricultural Centre, A96, Inverurie AB51 5XZ

Sheila is happy to accompany the Minister but she's unsure of how much support she actually requires – perhaps not everyone on the list is needed.

Sheila has also asked me to remind everyone to have suitable footwear – ideally wellies which can be easily disinfected.

Thank you.

Sheelagh  
19/10

**Email 29**

**From:** Higgins K (Kate) <Redacted>  
**Sent:** 19 October 2018 10:28  
**To:** <Redacted>  
**Cc:** <Redacted>  
**Subject:** RE: Thainstone mart Friday 19 Oct/CoHI Elgin 22/10/18

fine

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:** Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy  
**Sent:** 19 October 2018 10:02  
**To:** <Redacted>  
**Cc:** <Redacted>  
**Subject:** RE: Thainstone mart Friday 19 Oct/CoHI Elgin 22/10/18

Kate

Mr Ewing does think he should offer to meet the farmer but feels Monday is too soon.

Thanks

Kevin Veitch  
Private Secretary  
<Redacted>

---

**From:** "Higgins K (Kate)" <Redacted>  
**Sent:** 18 Oct 2018 15:31  
**To:** <Redacted>  
**Cc:** <Redacted>  
**Subject:** Thainstone mart Friday 19 Oct/CoHI Elgin 22/10/18

Minister, Thainstone mart is on tomorrow morning and is likely to be busy with Aberdeenshire farmers.

I've discussed with comms and we think this would be a very good opportunity for you to go and be available and visible in support of local farmers who are likely to be feeling anxious about the current situation – there are also risks about not putting “boots on the ground” at such a high profile gathering in the local calendar. Can your attendance be considered?

Cab Sec – also conscious that you are going to Elgin for CoHI on Monday and that the location of the farm is not that far (in North East terms!) – while the farmer is not actually there currently and might not be back on Monday, you might want to consider offering to visit privately on the way to or from CoHI?

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](http://www.lobbying.scot).

### EMAIL 30

**From:** Mitchell E (Elinor) <Redacted>>  
**Sent:** 19 October 2018 16:23  
**To:** <Redacted>  
**Subject:** RE: GMU - BSE in Aberdeenshire

Sheila  
Thanks for sharing – nice to get external validation and recognition for a job well done!  
Elinor

Elinor Mitchell  
Director for Agriculture and the Rural Economy  
P1 Spur Saughton House  
<Redacted>

**From:** Voas S (Sheila)  
**Sent:** 19 October 2018 16:22  
**To:** <Redacted>  
**Cc:** <Redacted>  
**Subject:** FW: GMU - BSE in Aberdeenshire

You may be interested in the interview that Robert (CVO NI) did for radio in NI this morning. He twice says we are handling it well.

*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:** 19 October 2018 14:48  
**To:** <Redacted>  
**Subject:** FW: GMU - BSE in Aberdeenshire

For info

<Redacted>  
<Redacted>

**From:** <Redacted>  
**Sent:** 19 October 2018 12:04  
**To:** <Redacted>  
**Cc:** <Redacted>  
**Subject:** FW: GMU - BSE in Aberdeenshire

Folks

Please find below transcript from GMU this morning.

Thanks

<Redacted>

**From:** DoF EIS Media Monitoring Unit  
**Sent:** 19 October 2018 11:56  
**To:** <Redacted>  
**Subject:** GMU - BSE in Aberdeenshire

<b>Programme</b>	<b>Good Morning Ulster</b>
<b>1. Date &amp; Time</b>	<b>19.10.18 (07.14)</b>
<b>Subject</b>	<b>BSE in Aberdeenshire</b>
<b>Prepared By</b>	<b>2. Typist: &lt;Redacted&gt;</b>

NIKKI GREGG

A case of BSE, so-called mad cow disease, has been confirmed at a farm in Aberdeenshire. The BBC understands it's an isolated case involving a beef herd in the <Redacted> area, but what does this mean for farmers here in Northern Ireland? I'm joined on the line by the chief veterinary officer, Dr Robert Huey. What was your reaction when you heard of this confirmed case?

DR ROBERT HUEY

Oh disappointment. We haven't had a case in the UK since 2015, we haven't had one in Northern Ireland since 2012, so one had hoped that the epidemic that started away back in 1988 had come to an end, but towards an end of one of these incidents you always get outliers, you always get the odd case towards the end.

NIKKI GREGG

Would you say that there is a sense of calm in the farming community at the moment, or has this heightened alert?

DR ROBERT HUEY

Well it's always unwelcome, but I think that the industry has reacted quite calming to it all. Scotland has, I think, dealt with the issue very well.

NIKKI GREGG

How so?

DR ROBERT HUEY

Well first of all their surveillance system worked very well. All fallen animals are, that's animals that die on farms for unknown reasons, are brain sampled and that's what happened here, there was an unexpected death of a youngish animal, a five year old animal on a farm, and the brain was sampled and they found this one to be positive. But that's amongst, for example in Northern Ireland here we do over 10,000 animals a year, in Scotland they do 20,000 of these animals a year, so really the system worked and they found the animal and then once it had been found they acted quickly and proportionately I think that they've put restrictions on the herd and they'll be taking other actions while they investigate where this case came from.

NIKKI GREGG

Just specifically what are some of those precautions?

DR ROBERT HUEY

Well the precautions they'll be taking is that they'll be looking at what animals in that herd, what the cohorts are and those will probably be slaughtered. They'll be looking at the family of this animal to see if there's any other animals that need to be taken precautionarily out of the food chain. But while they're doing that they'll put restrictions on the herd so that no animals can move.

NIKKI GREGG

Once a case is found at a farm, how long would it be for the precautions to remain in place, when is it given the all clear?

DR ROBERT HUEY

There is no set time, the restrictions will remain in place as long as the government in Scotland feels it's necessary, but I would like to emphasise that I do think they're dealing with this well.

NIKKI GREGG

And for us here in Northern Ireland, what impact will it have?

DR ROBERT HUEY

Well of course these incidents always have the potential to affect consumer confidence in the beef industry, but as far as our negligible risk is concerned, we in Northern Ireland, along with Scotland, achieved negligible risk back in, we applied in 2016 and achieved it in 2017, but the negligible risk in Northern Ireland applies only to animals raised and slaughtered in Northern Ireland, so it doesn't affect us at all.

NIKKI GREGG

Okay, we'll leave it there, Dr Robert Huey.

<Redacted>

**Email 31**

**From:** Murdoch I J (Ian) <Redacted>

**Sent:** 19 October 2018 11:25

**To:** <Redacted>

**Cc:** <Redacted>

**Subject:** RE: draft FSS stakeholder communication

Jenny

No comment to add and happy for our interests.

Ian

**Ian Murdoch**

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

**From:** <Redacted>  
**Sent:** 19 October 2018 10:37  
**To:** <Redacted>  
**Cc:** <Redacted>  
**Subject:** draft FSS stakeholder communication  
**Importance:** High

Dear Nick, Ian

The following note to industry is going to go out this morning advising slaughterhouses and cutting plants of the new SRM requirements – would you like to add anything? Grateful for any comments by **noon** please. Advice has already gone out to official vets. <Redacted> – can you please clear the final text, presume it will go out under your name.

Thanks  
<Redacted>

*Dear Food Business Operator*

*You will be aware that a case of classical BSE was confirmed on a Scottish farm on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2018. This means that Scotland is no longer considered to have 'negligible risk status' in accordance with Regulation 999/2001 laying down rules for the prevention, control and eradication of certain spongiform encephalopathies. For slaughterhouses, this means that the list of specified risk material (SRM) is as follows:*

<b><i>Bovine Tissues</i></b>	<b><i>Member States and non-EU countries with CR or UR BSE risk</i></b>
<b><i>Skull, excluding the mandible, including the <b>brain</b> and <b>eyes</b>, of bovine animals <b>over 12 months</b></i></b>	SRM
<b><i>Spinal cord of bovine animals <b>over 12 months</b></i></b>	SRM
<b><i>Vertebral column (backbone/spine) excluding the vertebrae of the tail, the spinous and transverse processes of the cervical, thoracic and lumbar vertebrae and the median sacral crest and wings of the sacrum, but including the <b>dorsal root ganglia</b>, of bovine animals <b>over 30 months</b></i></b>	SRM
<b><i>Tonsils of all ages</i></b>	SRM

<b>Mesentery</b> (fold attaching the small intestine to the posterior body wall), including mesenteric fat, mesenteric ganglion complex and mesenteric nerves, of bovine animals of <b>all ages</b>	SRM
<b>Caecum</b> (part of the large intestine) of <b>all ages</b>	SRM
<b>Last 4 metres of the small intestine</b> of bovine animals of <b>all ages</b> (small intestine comprises of duodenum, jejunum and ileum)	SRM

You should therefore take immediate steps to ensure that all SRM is treated as a category 1 animal by-product. This means that this material must, after staining be disposed of in accordance with Regulation (EC) 1069/2009. You will be aware that as a result of the confirmed case, Scotland, will now be considered a 'controlled risk' region in line with other parts of Great Britain.

Additionally, all carcasses from animals slaughtered up until and including 18 October 2018 as NR cattle are to be processed as such until the final product, that includes boning (i.e. no requirement for VC removal).

You are reminded that VC removal supervision of over 30 month cattle is required for carcasses of animals slaughtered as CR from 18<sup>th</sup> October and you should inform the plant OV (in case of collocated cutting plants (CPs)) and Operations Manager (for standalone CPs) when said processes will take place.

### Email 32

**From:** Boddice L (Luke) <Redacted>  
**Sent:** 19 October 2018 13:13  
**To:** <Redacted>  
**Subject:** RE: Farmer statement on BSE case

Thanks Elinor. Lack of heads up the key

Sent with BlackBerry Work ([www.blackberry.com](http://www.blackberry.com))

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**From:** "Mitchell E (Elinor)" <Redacted>  
**Sent:** 19 Oct 2018 13:02  
**To:** <Redacted>  
**Subject:** RE: Farmer statement on BSE case

Hi all  
Thanks for copying me into the email trail.  
I have one of my regular catch-up conversations with Scott Walker at 2.30 this afternoon so I will reinforce these messages  
Elinor

Elinor Mitchell  
Director for Agriculture and the Rural Economy

P1 Spur Saughton House  
<Redacted>

**From:** Boddice L (Luke)  
**Sent:** 19 October 2018 13:00  
**To:** <Redacted>  
**Subject:** RE: Farmer statement on BSE case

Right I've shown my displeasure to NFUS.

Their story is that the wife who is at the farm, is getting inundated with phone calls from media. The farmer approached NFUS for advice and this is the result. He, who is still on <Redacted>, wanted to alleviate the pressure on his wife (understandable) and was happy to be named and for a statement to be released.

I have said in no uncertain terms that it was completely unacceptable that we were not given the heads up before this issued, especially as we all sat on a call yesterday where it was agreed we would share everything. I have also made clear that our advice would have been different and that NFUS has just opened a can of worms unnecessarily, which could have been prevented. As such, I've also confirmed that we will be putting any further media calls through to them if it is related to the farmer.

With regards to the farm/farmer, NFUS now has/is on route a person on the ground to protect the farm and the farmer's wife.

Happy to chat as required,

Luke

**From:** Higgins K (Kate)  
**Sent:** 19 October 2018 12:32  
**To:** <Redacted>  
**Subject:** RE: Farmer statement on BSE case

Thanks Julie, Luke is picking up with NFUS – when he called me to discuss, he got some long seconds of stunned silence from me which doesn't happen often!!

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

**From:** Dick J (Julie)  
**Sent:** 19 October 2018 12:31  
**To:** <Redacted>  
**Subject:** FW: Farmer statement on BSE case

For info

Julie Dick

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

<Redacted>

**From:** <Redacted>

**Sent:** 19 October 2018 12:25

**Subject:** Farmer statement on BSE case

Good afternoon,

<Redacted>, the farmer of the herd found with BSE in Aberdeenshire, is currently unavailable for comment or interview. However, he has issued the following statement through NFU Scotland:

“This has been a very difficult time for myself and my wife and we have found the situation personally devastating. We have built up our closed herd over many years and have always taken great pride in doing all the correct things. To find through the surveillance system in place that one of our cows has BSE has been heart breaking.

“Since this has happened we have been fully cooperating with all the parties involved and will continue to do so as we like everyone want to move forward and clear up this matter.

“The cohorts and offspring of the cow have now been identified and as a purely precautionary measure they will be slaughtered and tested in due course; again we are fully co-operating with all the parties with regards to this.”

For any press who would like to discuss this further, please contact me directly below.

Kind regards,  
<Redacted>

<Redacted>

**Email 33**

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

**Sent:** 19 October 2018 11:53

**To:** <Redacted>

**Subject:** FW: BSE - Good Morning Scotland

Please see below FYI. Thanks.

**Sheelagh Waite**

Animal Health and Welfare Division  
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate  
The Scottish Government  
P Spur – Saughton House  
Broomhouse Drive  
EDINBURGH  
EH11 3XD

<Redacted>

**From:** <Redacted>  
**Sent:** 19 October 2018 11:48  
**To:** <Redacted>  
**Cc:** <Redacted>  
**Subject:** RE: BSE - Good Morning Scotland

Hi Luke: Just to flag that our CEO is doing a piece to camera at 2pm this afternoon with STV. <Redacted> is also doing a piece to camera with them around noon. The focus is very much on potential financial impact to the industry in terms of the SRM disposal costs (and revenue income lost). I am keen that these figures are accurate and not inflated by the press. <Redacted> in our economics team has been looking at the figures this morning and we are looking at an annual financial impact of about £4.75 million / year and over £10/head.

I am just drafting a reactive line on this (<Redacted> at The Courier is also chasing) and will send that over shortly.

Thanks

<Redacted>

<Redacted>

<Redacted>

<Redacted>

<Redacted>

<REDACTED> <Redacted>

<Redacted> <Redacted>

<Redacted> <Redacted>

<Redacted> <Redacted>



**From:** Boddice L (Luke)<Redacted>  
**Sent:** 18 October 2018 18:17  
**To:** <Redacted>  
**Cc:**<Redacted>  
**Subject:** RE: BSE - Good Morning Scotland

Yes, we have accepted. 0800 slot I believe

Sent with BlackBerry Work ([www.blackberry.com](http://www.blackberry.com))

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**From:** <Redacted>  
**Sent:** 18 Oct 2018 17:42  
**To:** <Redacted>  
**Cc:** <Redacted>  
**Subject:** BSE - Good Morning Scotland

Hi Luke. Just touching base to flag that we have been asked to go on Good Morning Scotland tomorrow am re BSE. They are planning to ask Sheila to come onto the programme too – can you let me know if that is happening.  
Many thanks  
Carol

<Redacted>  
<Redacted>  
<Redacted>  
<REDACTED> **<Redacted>**  
<Redacted> **<Redacted>**  
<Redacted> **<Redacted>**  
<Redacted> **<Redacted>**



#### **Email 34**

**From:** Mowat A (Alex) <Redacted> **On Behalf Of** Permanent Secretary  
**Sent:** 19 October 2018 10:56  
**To:** <Redacted>  
**Cc:** <Redacted>  
**Subject:** RE: Confirmation of a BSE case on a farm in Aberdeenshire

Many thanks, Nick.

Alex.

**From:** Ambrose N (Nick) Dr  
**Sent:** 19 October 2018 10:48  
**To:** <Redacted>  
**Cc:** <Redacted>  
**Subject:** RE: Confirmation of a BSE case on a farm in Aberdeenshire

Alex,  
My apologies to you, the Permanent Secretary and her support team for this oversight.

I will ensure you are included in any further briefing and I attach briefing that was provided to the First Minister last night.

Thanks  
Nick

**From:** Mowat A (Alex) **On Behalf Of** Permanent Secretary  
**Sent:** 19 October 2018 09:32  
**To:** <Redacted>

**Cc:** <Redacted>

**Subject:** Confirmation of a BSE case on a farm in Aberdeenshire

Nick

copy as above

### **Confirmation of a BSE case on a farm in Aberdeenshire**

The Permanent Secretary was out of the office on business yesterday morning when she heard - in the media - about the case of BSE detected on a farm in Aberdeenshire. For those of us who give direct support to the Perm Sec, it was rather embarrassing that we hadn't been able to give her any advance warning of the announcement.

Could I ask, therefore, that the Permanent Secretary's inbox is added to your copy list for all further updates and briefings on the issue. This is especially important for any information going to the First Minister.

Thank you.

Alex Mowat  
Permanent Secretary's Office  
Scottish Government  
Rm 1N.04  
St Andrews House  
<Redacted>

**From:** Ambrose N (Nick) Dr

**Sent:** 18 October 2018 09:27

**To:** <Redacted>

**Cc:** <Redacted>

**Subject:** Confirmation of a BSE case on a farm in Aberdeenshire - IMMEDIATE - 18 October 2018

**Importance:** High

### **IMMEDIATE**

PS/First Minister & Deputy First Minister,

Following the note provided on 10 October, I can now inform you that the tests carried out by the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) laboratory have confirmed that the cow in question had Classical BSE. The attached FMQ style briefing provides more detail.

The Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) Scotland, Sheila Voas will confirm disease this morning through a press release that will follow a teleconference to inform key stakeholders - starting at 10 am.

The Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy and the Minister for Rural Affairs and Environment have already been informed separately and have assisted in devising a handling plan, timings and actions. We have arrangements in hand to inform the Scottish Parliament today through a GIQ.

Nick Ambrose.

<Redacted>

**From:** Ambrose N (Nick) Dr  
**Sent:** 10 October 2018 17:32  
**To:** <Redacted>  
**Cc:** <Redacted>  
**Subject:** Investigation of a suspected BSE case on a farm in <Redacted> - 10 October 2018

PS/First Minister & Deputy First Minister,

Please find attached FMQ style briefing on an investigation into a suspected BSE case in a cow on a farm in <Redacted>.

**Nick Ambrose**

[Animal Health - Disease Prevention | Directorate for Agriculture and Rural Economy | Scottish Government | P Spur, Saughton House | Broomhouse Drive | Edinburgh | EH11 3XD | <Redacted>](#)

**Email 35 (See Attachment 7)**

**From:** Ambrose N (Nick) Dr  
**Sent:** 19 October 2018 10:48  
**To:** <Redacted> <Redacted>  
**Cc:** <Redacted>  
**Subject:** RE: Confirmation of a BSE case on a farm in Aberdeenshire

Alex,

My apologies to you, the Permanent Secretary and her support team for this oversight.

I will ensure you are included in any further briefing and I attach briefing that was provided to the First Minister last night.

Thanks

Nick

**From:** Mowat A (Alex) **On Behalf Of** Permanent Secretary  
**Sent:** 19 October 2018 09:32  
**To:** <Redacted>

**Cc:** <Redacted>

**Subject:** Confirmation of a BSE case on a farm in Aberdeenshire

Nick

copy as above

### **Confirmation of a BSE case on a farm in Aberdeenshire**

The Permanent Secretary was out of the office on business yesterday morning when she heard - in the media - about the case of BSE detected on a farm in Aberdeenshire. For those of us who give direct support to the Perm Sec, it was rather embarrassing that we hadn't been able to give her any advance warning of the announcement.

Could I ask, therefore, that the Permanent Secretary's inbox is added to your copy list for all further updates and briefings on the issue. This is especially important for any information going to the First Minister.

Thank you.

Alex Mowat  
Permanent Secretary's Office  
Scottish Government  
Rm 1N.04  
St Andrews House  
<Redacted>

**From:** Ambrose N (Nick) Dr

**Sent:** 18 October 2018 09:27

**To:** <Redacted>

**Cc:** <Redacted>

**Subject:** Confirmation of a BSE case on a farm in Aberdeenshire - IMMEDIATE - 18 October 2018

**Importance:** High

### **IMMEDIATE**

PS/First Minister & Deputy First Minister,

Following the note provided on 10 October, I can now inform you that the tests carried out by the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) laboratory have confirmed that the cow in question had Classical BSE. The attached FMQ style briefing provides more detail.

The Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO)Scotland, Sheila Voas will confirm disease this morning through a press release that will follow a teleconference to inform key stakeholders - starting at 10 am.

The Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy and the Minister for Rural Affairs and Environment have already been informed separately and have assisted in devising a handling plan, timings and actions. We have arrangements in hand to inform the Scottish Parliament today through a GIQ.

Nick Ambrose.

<Redacted>

**From:** Ambrose N (Nick) Dr  
**Sent:** 10 October 2018 17:32  
**To:** <Redacted>  
**Cc:** <Redacted>  
**Subject:** Investigation of a suspected BSE case on a farm in <Redacted> - 10 October 2018

PS/First Minister & Deputy First Minister,

Please find attached FMQ style briefing on an investigation into a suspected BSE case in a cow on a farm in <Redacted>

**Nick Ambrose**

[Animal Health - Disease Prevention | Directorate for Agriculture and Rural Economy | Scottish Government | P Spur, Saughton House | Broomhouse Drive | Edinburgh | EH11 3XD | <Redacted>](#)

**Email 36**

**From:** Murdoch I J (Ian) <Redacted>

**Sent:** 19 October 2018 11:49

**To:** <Redacted>

**Cc:** <Redacted>

**Subject:** RE: SG's input to BSE case

Hi Carmen

I can confirm that we would like the offspring to be TSE tested. Sheila has publicly stated this during interviews with Press as it shows we are not being complacent and doing more than we are legally required to do.

On the epidemiological report, I understand that this will be a thorough investigatory task to gather all the necessary evidence, which we fully support and appreciate it will be time consuming. However, is it possible to be more specific on timings so that we can brief Ministers with as much information as possible?

Thanks

Ian

**Ian Murdoch**

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

**From:** <Redacted>  
**Sent:** 18 October 2018 18:30  
**To:** <Redacted>  
**Subject:** SG's input to BSE case

Dear all

I wanted to mention two issues with regards to the next steps by APHA in the above case.

The first is whether SG would like the offspring being tested as well as the cohorts. Offspring testing is not compulsory however in 2015 it was requested by WG. So please could you let me know your thoughts.

The second is about the likely timelines and outcome of the epidemiological report. This is an depth piece of veterinary investigative work and may take 1-2 months to gather all the necessary evidence, analyse it and produce the preliminary report ready for input and comments from other experts in APHA. The report from the 2015 was unable to ascertain the origin of the investigation and I would think that this may be the likely outcome in this case. I am checking that you are comfortable with timelines and outcomes and reassure you that this report will be the result of a team effort by the Veterinary Officer supported by the Specialist Epidemiologists, One Health Veterinarians and BSE Consultant, which by the way, is one of the OIE BSE Experts.

Grateful in advance for your comments. Kind regards  
<Redacted>

<Redacted>

**Email 37**

**From:** Boddice L (Luke) <Redacted>  
**Sent:** 19 October 2018 15:44  
**To:** <Redacted>  
**Subject:** RE: BSE - Updated BSE FAQ - for comment

Fine from my side

**From:** Murdoch I J (Ian)  
**Sent:** 19 October 2018 15:34  
**To:** <Redacted>  
**Cc:** <Redacted>  
**Subject:** BSE - Updated BSE FAQ - for comment

Kate/Luke

We have updated the BSE FAQ and added a section on the current BSE case that should hopefully fend of general questions. Can I have your comments please before we post this online (new questions/sections highlighted)

**Q. What is the public health risk associated with the discovery of a case of classical BSE in Scotland?**

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 Official Veterinarians and Meat Hygiene Inspectors in All Scottish slaughterhouses will continue to work to ensure that in respect of BSE controls, the safety of consumers remains a priority.

**Q. What is Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy?**

Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) is a disease in cattle. It belongs to a group of diseases called Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSEs) that affect the brain and nervous system of humans and animals. The diseases are characterised by a degeneration of brain tissue giving it a sponge-like appearance

**Q. What is Classical BSE?**

Epidemic classical BSE occurs through the consumption of contaminated feed. Whilst classical BSE was identified as a significant problem in the 1990s, its occurrence has markedly decreased over the past years, as a result of the successful implementation of effective control measures.

**Q. When was the last confirmed case of Classical BSE in Scotland?**

October 2018, from an animal born in 2013. The case was detected during routine surveillance of fallen stock cattle. The animal was not presented for slaughter and did not enter the food chain. The last case prior to then was in 2008, from an animal born in 1994.

**Q. What is the current situation in Scotland?**

A case of classical BSE has been confirmed in a pedigree beef cow in Aberdeenshire. Further information on this case can be found [below](#).

Prior to the most recent BSE case, Scotland had been BSE free since 2009. In the years before that, there were relatively low numbers of

BSE cases compared to the peak of the epidemic when there were 2208 clinical cases in the 1993 . The marked decrease in the number of cases detected through passive surveillance is consistent with the long tail previously predicted by epidemiologists.

**Q. When will we know the cause of the outbreak?**

The Animal Health Agency (APHA) is investigating the source of the outbreak and will update in due course.

**Q. Does a confirmed Classical case of BSE affect Scotland's negligible risk BSE status?**

Yes, a confirmed case of classical BSE will alter Scotland's BSE status to Controlled Risk. Scotland will now have the same status as England and Wales.

**Q. What is Scotland doing to monitor BSE?**

An active BSE surveillance programme has been in place since 2001 and is carried out on all fallen livestock that die on farm over 48 months old by approved facilities. Scotland takes BSE samples from over 20,000 fallen cattle each year.

**Q. Can humans get BSE?**

A. An extremely rare form of spongiform encephalopathy called variant(v) Creutzfeld-Jakob Disease (CJD) occurs in humans and is likely to be caused by consuming meat from a cow that has been infected with BSE, a similar prion disease to vCJD. Since the link between vCJD and BSE was discovered in 1996, strict controls have proved very effective in preventing meat from infected cattle entering the food chain.

**Q. What are signs of BSE in cattle?**

Cattle affected by BSE experience progressive degeneration of the nervous system. Affected animals may display changes in temperament (nervousness or aggression), abnormal posture, incoordination and difficulty in rising, decreased milk production, or loss of condition without noticeable loss of appetite. The causative agent of the disease is not completely characterised, and there is neither any treatment nor a vaccine to prevent the disease. The incubation period is from 2 to 8 years. Following the onset of clinical signs, the animal's condition deteriorates. This process usually takes from 2 weeks to 6 months. Any farmer with concerns should immediately seek veterinary advice.

**Q. How is BSE actually spread?**

The disease is not contagious so it does not spread. Scientific opinion based on the known evidence is that it can be transmitted by infected feed, and a ban on feeding any animal protein to ruminants was put in place in 1996.

The following controls are currently in force in the UK:

- The feed ban applies to all ruminants and all non-ruminant farmed species.
- Under the feed ban it is illegal to feed (with certain exceptions e.g. milk and eggs) animal protein to ruminants and it is illegal to feed (with certain exceptions) processed animal protein to farmed animals.

### **Q. How did BSE emerge?**

There are different scientific hypotheses concerning the origins of BSE. The disease may have been caused by feeding cattle rendered protein produced from the carcasses of cattle with a previously unidentified transmissible spongiform encephalopathy (TSE). That was the preferred conclusion of the BSE Phillips Enquiry into its origins.

### **Q. What is the agent that causes BSE?**

Research suggests that a pathogenic form of a normally occurring protein known as a prion (PrP.) is the cause.

The pathogenic form of the prion protein (PrP<sup>Sc</sup>) is extremely resistant to heat and to normal sterilization processes, making it difficult to inactivate with standard methods used to process human food and animal feed. Although rendering and other processes can partially inactivate PrP<sup>Sc</sup>, the risk mitigation strategies (for meat and meat products) rely mainly on the elimination of tissues and organs known to harbour BSE infectivity in infected animals, which are known as specified risk material (SRM).

### **Q. What is specified risk material (SRM)?**

A. Specified risk material (SRM) is those parts of cattle, sheep and goats that are most likely to pose a risk of infectivity if the animal which it comes from was infected with a transmissible spongiform encephalopathy (TSE) prion. It is essential, therefore, that it is removed from both the human and animal food chains and destroyed.

### **Q. What is a prion?**

Prions are the only non-DNA-based agent capable of infecting and reproducing themselves in a living host. Proteins similar to prions already exist in the nervous tissue cell membrane in normal animals, but

in a harmless form. After an incubation period of many years, prions in an infected host reproduce by recruiting the host's similar, harmless protein and changing its shape to that of the prion.

**Q. Are there any known tests to detect the disease in cattle?**

Currently, there is no test to detect the disease in a live animal. BSE is confirmed by either histopathological examination of brain tissue or by the detection of the abnormal form of the prion protein via one of several methods, also requiring brain tissue.

**Q. Is cow's milk and milk products a source of TSE?**

No. Scientific research indicates that TSEs cannot be transmitted via milk or milk products, even if the milk comes from a TSE-infected animal.

**Confirmed Classical BSE case in Aberdeenshire (as of 19 October 2018)**

- A case of Classical BSE has been confirmed in a cow from a <Redacted> farm in Aberdeenshire, Scotland on 18 October 2018. A Scottish Government press release can be found [here](#).
- The farm operates as a closed herd and cattle are grass fed.
- The animal had been showing signs of illness and a private veterinary practitioner diagnosed and treated her for hypomagnesaemia (grass staggers) several days before she died.
- The animal was sampled for BSE as per surveillance requirements to test all cattle over 48 months old that die on farm. Initial test results could not rule out the animal being positive for BSE and further confirmatory testing was carried out.
- The Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) were notified according to standard protocol and movement restrictions have been in place on the farm since BSE was first suspected.
- Preliminary investigations by APHA have identified 3 cohorts and 1 offspring. Cohorts are animals born in the same herd which have been potentially exposed to the same feed. No cohorts have left the farm.
- APHA will enact further controls by slaughtering these cohort and offspring animals. All animals will be tested for BSE. These

animal do not pose an immediate risk to other animals or public health and their slaughter is purely precautionary.

- Food Standards Scotland and Health Protection Scotland are aware and state there is no change to risks to human health because appropriate controls are, and already were in place.
- APHA will carry out a further detailed epidemiological investigations on the farm to establish, if possible, the source of the disease.

**Ian Murdoch**

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

**Email 38**

**From:** <Redacted>  
**Sent:** 19 October 2018 12:41  
**To:** <Redacted>  
**Cc:** <Redacted>  
**Subject:** FW: Farmer statement on BSE case  
**Importance:** High

Hi Luke, Presuming you have seen this...? I am afraid I was unaware until it went out. I would anticipate that the media will now head straight for the farm. Do we know who is available there to speak with the press? I understand NFUS have people (local office-bearers) heading there.....

Thanks

<Redacted>

<Redacted>

<Redacted>

<Redacted>

<Redacted>

<REDACTED> <Redacted>

<Redacted> <Redacted>

<Redacted> <Redacted>

<Redacted> <Redacted>



**From:** <Redacted>  
**Sent:** 19 October 2018 12:25  
**Subject:** Farmer statement on BSE case

Good afternoon,

<Redacted>, the farmer of the herd found with BSE in Aberdeenshire, is currently unavailable for comment or interview. However, he has issued the following statement through NFU Scotland:

“This has been a very difficult time for myself and my wife and we have found the situation personally devastating. We have built up our closed herd over many years and have always taken great pride in doing all the correct things. To find through the surveillance system in place that one of our cows has BSE has been heart breaking.

“Since this has happened we have been fully cooperating with all the parties involved and will continue to do so as we like everyone want to move forward and clear up this matter.

“The cohorts and offspring of the cow have now been identified and as a purely precautionary measure they will be slaughtered and tested in due course; again we are fully co-operating with all the parties with regards to this.”

For any press who would like to discuss this further, please contact me directly below.

Kind regards,  
<Redacted>

#### **EMAIL 39**

**From:** Mowat A (Alex) <Redacted> **On Behalf Of** Permanent Secretary

**Sent:** 19 October 2018 09:32

**To:** <Redacted>

**Cc:** <Redacted>

Nick

copy as above

#### **Confirmation of a BSE case on a farm in Aberdeenshire**

The Permanent Secretary was out of the office on business yesterday morning when she heard - in the media - about the case of BSE detected on a farm in Aberdeenshire. For those of us who give direct support to the Perm Sec, it was rather embarrassing that we hadn't been able to give her any advance warning of the announcement.

Could I ask, therefore, that the Permanent Secretary's inbox is added to your copy list for all further updates and briefings on the issue. This is especially important for any information going to the First Minister.

Thank you.

Alex Mowat  
Permanent Secretary's Office  
Scottish Government  
Rm 1N.04  
St Andrews House

<Redacted>

**From:** Ambrose N (Nick) Dr

**Sent:** 18 October 2018 09:27

**To:** <Redacted>

**Cc:** <Redacted>

**Subject:** Confirmation of a BSE case on a farm in Aberdeenshire - IMMEDIATE - 18 October 2018

**Importance:** High

## IMMEDIATE

PS/First Minister & Deputy First Minister,

Following the note provided on 10 October, I can now inform you that the tests carried out by the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) laboratory have confirmed that the cow in question had Classical BSE. The attached FMQ style briefing provides more detail.

The Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) Scotland, Sheila Voas will confirm disease this morning through a press release that will follow a teleconference to inform key stakeholders - starting at 10 am.

The Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy and the Minister for Rural Affairs and Environment have already been informed separately and have assisted in devising a handling plan, timings and actions. We have arrangements in hand to inform the Scottish Parliament today through a GIQ.

Nick Ambrose.  
<Redacted>

**From:** Ambrose N (Nick) Dr

**Sent:** 10 October 2018 17:32

**To:** <Redacted>

**Cc:** <Redacted>

**Subject:** Investigation of a suspected BSE case on a farm in <Redacted> - 10 October 2018

PS/First Minister & Deputy First Minister,

Please find attached FMQ style briefing on an investigation into a suspected BSE case in a cow on a farm in <Redacted>

**Nick Ambrose**

[Animal Health - Disease Prevention | Directorate for Agriculture and Rural Economy | Scottish Government | P Spur, Saughton House | Broomhouse Drive | Edinburgh | EH11 3XD | <Redacted>](#)

## ATTACHMENTS

### Attachment 1

#### SCANCE Contribution

This needs to be with Cabinet Secretariat by no later than **3:00 pm Monday**:

#### **Send to your Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretariat Inbox:**

A case of BSE (bovine spongiform encephalopathy) was confirmed in a cow from a <Redacted> beef farm in Aberdeenshire, Scotland on 18 October 2018.

**Why Cabinet need to know:** This is the first case of BSE in Scotland since 2008. The disease is not infectious, necessary controls are in place already and this is likely to be an isolated case. However further investigations are underway and will take at least 2 months to complete. Public and media memory of the BSE epidemic of the 1980s and 1990s may generate concerns about animal and public health. Public health authorities in SG, Food Standards Scotland and Health Protection Scotland have been involved in the response to this case. Scotland achieved BSE Negligible Risk status in May 2017, this result means that our status returns to BSE Controlled Risk in line with the rest of GB; this will have some impact on the high health status of our livestock sector's reputation.

**Lines to take:** 1. There is no risk to consumer health as high levels of consumer protection are already in place. 2. These include controls on animal feed, and removal of the parts of cattle most likely to carry BSE infectivity. 3. No meat from the affected animal has entered the food chain.

#### **Speaking Note**

#### **A copy of this should be sent to Cabinet Secretariat when complete Send to your Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretariat Inbox:**

- It is disappointing news to have a confirmed case of BSE in Aberdeenshire. The last confirmed case of Classical BSE in Scotland was 2008.
- Movement restriction of cattle have been put in place on the farm. Four cattle will be culled and tested as a precaution and we expect to have the results by mid-November. Detailed epidemiological investigations to try and establish the source of BSE in this animal will take at least 2 months to complete.
- This case of classical BSE has caused Scotland's BSE Negligible Risk status, held for 18 months, to revert to Controlled risk, in line with the rest of GB.
- Food Standards Scotland and Health Protection Scotland and have been involved in our response (as have Readiness and Resilience partners), they state there is no risk to human health from this case.
- BSE Controls include i) the ban on feeding animal protein to farmed animals, which prevents the spread of BSE to animals through feed; ii) removing specified risk material (SRM), the most risky parts of animals, at slaughter to protect consumers from risk from food; and iii) surveillance to monitor the level of BSE

and thereby check on the continued effectiveness of BSE controls - in Scotland we test around 20,000 cattle per annum.

- The farmer is devastated about the news, he has the support of his family and has been offered support by Scottish Government and others.

Contact Sam McDonald <Redacted>/ Ian Murdoch <Redacted>

## **Attachment 2**

### **Confirmed Classical BSE Case in Scotland**

#### **Top lines**

- It is disappointing news to have a confirmed case of BSE in Aberdeenshire.
- There is no risk to consumer health as high levels of consumer protection are already in place.
- The Scottish Government have activated plans to protect food safety and our valuable farming industry.
- These include precautionary movement restrictions at the farm, while further investigations are undertaken to identify the origin of the disease
- The farmer and their household have been advised, are co-operating fully and importantly, are being supported to deal with the situation.
- There are strict controls in place to protect consumers from the risk of BSE.
- These include 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. No meat from the affected animal has entered the food chain.
- Classical BSE does not represent a threat to human health.
- Scotland's Chief Veterinary Officer is leading co-ordination of activity with her animal health and welfare team and other agencies and is liaising closely with other CVOs across the UK – Defra are also being kept apprised
- Any farmer with concerns should immediately seek veterinary advice.

#### **Background**

- A case of BSE (bovine spongiform encephalopathy) was confirmed in a cow from a <Redacted> farm in Aberdeenshire, Scotland on 18 October 2018. See **Annex 1** for background information on BSE.
- The carcass was collected and transported to an authorised BSE sampling site where a brain stem sample was taken and then tested in accordance with surveillance requirements for all cattle over 48 months old that die on the farm. See **Annex 2** for details of BSE control measures, **Annex 3** for more detail on the current case.
- Initial rapid screening tests returned positive results for BSE and the Animal Health and Plant Agency (APHA) BSE reference laboratory released positive test results for Classical BSE and for DNA matching of the sample to the animal late on 17 October 2018.
- Movement restriction of cattle have been put in place on the farm. APHA have made contact with the farm and will enact further controls by slaughtering a small number of cattle (four) associated with this case imminently. See **Annex 4** for current actions and next steps.
- APHA will also carry out further epidemiological investigations on the farm to establish, if possible, the source of the disease.
- The last confirmed case of Classical BSE in Scotland was 2008. See **Annex 5** for information on historical BSE in Scotland.
- Health colleagues at Food Standards Scotland and Health Protection Scotland are aware and state there is no change to risks to human health because appropriate controls are, and already were in place.
- A confirmed Classical BSE case will result in Scotland reverting to BSE Controlled Risk in line with the rest of GB. See **Annex 6** for information on regaining BSE Negligible Risk status.
- Frequently asked questions on BSE can be found at the following link: [www.gov.scot/Topics/farmingrural/Agriculture/animal-welfare/Diseases/disease/bse/BSEfaq](http://www.gov.scot/Topics/farmingrural/Agriculture/animal-welfare/Diseases/disease/bse/BSEfaq)

### **Controls on Classical BSE**

- Cattle may become infected with BSE through consumption of feed containing proteins from ruminants: cattle feed cannot contain material from other ruminant species.
- Classical BSE has been demonstrated to be transmissible to humans as vCJD and there is a risk to public health through consumption of contaminated meat: to avoid this, potentially infectious tissues (Specified Risk Material, SRM) are removed from ALL cattle carcasses and do not enter the food chain.
- Routine surveillance carried out in Scotland on fallen stock over 48 months old on farms has tested over 20,000 animals per annum over the last 5 years.

Scottish Government  
 Animal Health & Welfare Division  
 19 October 2018

### **Annexes**

Annex 1	BSE disease background
Annex 2	BSE control measures
Annex 3	Current case outline
Annex 4	Current action and next steps
Annex 5	History of BSE in Scotland
Annex 6	Regaining negligible risk status

## **Annex 1 BSE – Disease background**

Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) is a disease in cattle. It belongs to a group of diseases called Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSEs) that affect the brain and nervous system of humans and animals. The diseases are characterised by a degeneration of brain tissue giving it a sponge-like appearance. Other examples include scrapie in sheep and chronic wasting disease in deer.

Epidemic classical BSE occurs through the consumption of feed contaminated with ruminant protein. Whilst classical BSE was identified as a significant problem in the 1990s, its occurrence has markedly decreased over the past years, as a result of the successful implementation of effective control measures.

Cattle affected by BSE experience progressive degeneration of the nervous system. Affected animals may display changes in temperament (nervousness or aggression), abnormal posture, incoordination and difficulty in rising, decreased milk production, or loss of condition without noticeable loss of appetite, leading ultimately to death. The causative agent of the disease is not completely characterised, and there is neither any treatment nor a vaccine to prevent the disease. The incubation period is from two to eight years although some cases appear to be spontaneous. Following the onset of clinical signs, the animal's condition deteriorates progressively. This process usually takes from two weeks to six months.

There are different scientific hypotheses concerning the origins of BSE. The disease may have been caused by feeding cattle rendered protein produced from the carcasses of cattle with a previously unidentified, possibly sporadic (or genetic) TSE. That was the preferred conclusion of the BSE Phillips Enquiry into its origins.

Research suggests that a pathogenic form of a normally occurring protein known as a prion (PrP) is the cause of BSE. Prions are the only agent without nucleic acids (DNA and RNA) that are capable of infecting a living host and reproducing themselves once inside. Proteins similar to prions already exist in the nervous tissue cell membrane in healthy animals, but in a harmless form. After an incubation period of many years, prions in an infected host reproduce by recruiting the host's similar, harmless protein and changing its shape to that of the prion. Some individuals appear to be genetically susceptible to prion diseases.

The pathogenic form of the prion protein (PrP<sup>Sc</sup>) is extremely resistant to heat and to normal sterilization processes, making it difficult to inactivate with standard methods used to process human food and animal feed. Although rendering and

other processes can partially inactivate PrPSc, the risk mitigation strategies (for meat and meat products) rely mainly on the elimination of tissues and organs known to harbour BSE infectivity in infected animals.

Specified risk material (SRM) is those parts of cattle, sheep and goats that are most likely to pose a risk of infectivity if the animal which it comes from was infected with TSE. It is essential that SRM is removed from both the human and animal food chains and destroyed. Official controls are in place to ensure SRM destruction.

An extremely rare form of spongiform encephalopathy called variant(v) Creutzfeld-Jakob Disease (vCJD) occurs in humans. CJD is likely to be caused by consuming meat from a bovine that has been infected with BSE, a similar prion disease to vCJD. Since the link between vCJD and BSE was discovered in 1996, strict controls have proved very effective in preventing meat from infected cattle entering the food chain.

## **Annex 2 BSE Control measures**

There are strict controls in place to protect consumers and animals from the risk of BSE. These fall into two categories, firstly protecting animals from infection including though controls on animal feed, and secondly protection of the public by robust identification of cases and the removal of the parts of carcass most likely to carry BSE infectivity.

Current controls are part of an EU plan to control BSE: The TSE Roadmap.

These important BSE protection measures remain in place and Food Standards Scotland Official Veterinarians and Meat Hygiene Inspectors in all Scottish slaughterhouses continue to work to ensure that the safety of consumers remains a priority.

### **Animal controls:**

1. Since 1996 it has been illegal to feed ruminant protein such as meat and bone meal and most other animal proteins to livestock species. This prevents the risk of disease spread through feeding.
2. Animals at higher risk of infection such as cohorts (those animals raised on the same farm as the BSE case and potentially exposed to the same feed) are identified and removed to reduce potential for other cases.
3. Animal waste is categorised according to risk into 3 categories and there are strict controls over what each category may be used for and how it is disposed of. For example only material that is fit for human consumption but is not so intended (Cat. 3) can be used in pet food; Cat. 1 material the highest risk which includes ruminant fallen stock and SRM. It may only be disposed of by pressure rendering or incineration.

### **Public health controls:**

1. Until recently older bovine animals, initially aged over 30 months, but ultimately those born prior to 1996 when enhanced controls on feeding were enforced, have been prevented from entering the food chain under any

circumstances. These controls have been reduced stepwise in line with the risk level determined by scientific experts including medics and vets.

2. An active BSE surveillance programme has been in place since 2001 and is carried out by approved facilities on all livestock over 48 months old that die on farm. Each year, Scotland takes BSE samples from over 20,000 cattle aged over 48 months old.
3. Any animal with suspicion of clinical disease must be notified to APHA by either the vet or the farmer. If an APHA vet considers BSE a possible diagnosis the animal will be restricted, valued, killed and tested with compensation paid by Scottish Government to the owner.
4. Currently, there is no test to detect the disease in a live animal. BSE is confirmed by either laboratory examination of brain tissue or by the detection of the abnormal form of the prion protein via one of several methods, all of which also require brain tissue.
5. Specified risk material (SRM) is those parts of cattle, sheep and goats that are most likely to pose a risk of infectivity if the animal which it comes from was infected with a TSE. It is essential that SRM is removed from both the human and animal food chains and destroyed. This is done in the slaughter house under the strict supervision of official vets working on behalf of Food Standards Scotland.
6. Scientific research indicates that TSEs cannot be transmitted via milk or milk products, even if the milk comes from a TSE-infected animal.

All the controls noted above are currently in place in Scotland and were in place for many years prior to the current case. For this reason there is little additional action required as a result of the current case.

### **Annex 3 Current Case outline**

The current case occurred in a small herd of <Redacted> beef cattle in Aberdeenshire with a number of other species on the same farm including sheep and companion animals. The case was a <Redacted> cow that was homebred, born on 5 April 2013. Unusually, this animal has only consumed its mother's milk, grass, silage and hay. No proprietary concentrated cattle feeds were fed during her lifetime. APHA have confirmed that records support this and that food storage arrangements on the farm makes cross contamination with illegal animal protein highly unlikely.

The animal had two offspring, the first was a male calf born in 2017 that was slaughtered for human consumption on 28 September 2018. The other is a six month old female born in 2018 that is alive on the holding. As well as the surviving offspring there are three cohort animals alive on farm. Cohorts are animals raised in the same herd that have been potentially exposed to the same feeding. No cohorts have left the farm.

The suspect was healthy until 30 September 2018 when it showed signs of illness. The local vet diagnosed and treated it for hypomagnesaemia (grass staggers, a well-known cattle condition). The animal died on farm and, as per normal procedure for cattle aged over 48 months old that die on farm, a brain stem sample was taken from the carcase. The sample tested positive for BSE on initial laboratory screening.

At this stage APHA were notified according to the standard protocol and the sample was sent to the APHA reference laboratory at Weybridge for confirmatory testing. Movement restrictions were placed on farm and preliminary investigations commenced into the source and possible spread of disease. Scotland tests approximately 20,000 brain stem samples per year from cattle that die on farm and this is the first positive result since 2008.

Classical BSE was confirmed by further laboratory testing: immunohistochemistry and Western Blot were used, which are the internationally-recognised tests for BSE. The written result was received by the Chief Veterinary Officer for Scotland late on the night of 17 October 2018, consequently an action plan was agreed between Scottish Government policy staff and Scottish Ministers.

#### **Annex 4 Current Actions and Next Steps**

- APHA have made contact with the farm and will enact further controls by culling a small number of cattle (three cohorts and one offspring) associated with this case. This will be done at a time agreed with the farmer, likely to be week commencing 22 October 2018. These animals do not pose a risk to other animals or public health and their slaughter is purely precautionary and in line with international animal health requirements.
- Prior to slaughter the animals will be valued by a valuer mutually appointed by the farmer and Scottish Government and full market value compensation will be paid.
- Restrictions have been placed on the farm to prevent the movement of cattle. These restrictions will be lifted after the four additional animals have been slaughtered.
- APHA are carrying out further detailed epidemiological investigations on the farm to establish, if possible, the source of the disease. This will take 1-2 months to complete.
- The APHA reference laboratory will carry out a standard mouse bioassay to determine any further information on the case. This laboratory test takes at least 250 days to complete.

#### **Annex 5 BSE in Scotland**

The last confirmed case of Classical BSE in Scotland was in 2008, from a 1994-born animal.

Scotland has been BSE free since 2009. In the years before that, there were relatively low numbers of BSE cases compared to the peak of the epidemic when there were 2208 clinical cases in 1993. The marked decrease in the number of cases detected through animal health surveillance is consistent with the long “tail” previously predicted by veterinary specialists. The “tail” describes the disease monitoring situation: once the source of disease has been removed, the number of affected animals will gradually dwindle, with long gaps between the last few cases.

In recognition of our controls and disease freedom Scotland was awarded negligible risk status by the OIE in May 2017.

A confirmed case of classical BSE alters Scotland's BSE status to Controlled Risk. Scotland will now have the same Controlled Risk status as England and Wales.

## **Annex 6 Regaining BSE Negligible Risk status**

Scotland achieved BSE Negligible Risk (NR) status in May 2017. BSE NR status is based on submission of a dossier to the World Organisation of Animal Health (the OIE) that describes the country's BSE control regime in terms of implementation of the ban on feeding ruminant material to other ruminants; controls preventing Specified risk materials (SRM) into the food and feed chain; the implementation of a ban on older animals entering the food chain; safe disposal of animal by-products (ABPs) and an active surveillance programme for BSE.

The current case of classical BSE means that Scotland returns immediately to Controlled Risk status, which was our previous position and that of the rest of GB. Under current OIE rules, Scotland cannot apply for BSE Negligible Risk (NR) Status until 2024, 11 years after the date of birth of the current Classical BSE case. However other countries (France and the Republic of Ireland) are in the same position as Scotland in losing their BSE NR status shortly after gaining it.

Scotland's BSE NR dossier is attached separately, it contains additional detailed information on our BSE controls.

## **Attachment 3 – In Annex 3 in separate document**

## **Attachment 4**

### **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 Mossbank

Owner: <Redacted>

CPH: <Redacted> Ear tag: <REDACTED>

DOB: 05/04/13

Barcode: J<Redacted>

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

## Attachment 5

### MEMORANDUM

To: BSE SECTION AHDO <REDACTED>

Case Ref: 18/00003

DBSE Ref: 18/00001

AHO: <REDACTED>

CPHH: <Redacted>

Date of report: 19/10/2018

### BOVINE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY

Immunohistochemical and / or Western Blot analysis of brain tissue from

Animal ID: <REDACTED>

Belonging to: <REDACTED>

Disease is CONFIRMED on the premises

in the parish of: <REDACTED>

District:

County: <REDACTED>

Please copy to local SVIO/VS

## Attachment 6

BSE – Social media Posts Comments

The Herald Scotland	Mad cow disease confirmed on Scottish farm - <a href="https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/16991719.mad-cow-disease-confirmed-on-scottish-farm/">https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/16991719.mad-cow-disease-confirmed-on-scottish-farm/</a>
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<p>Sheila Voas post .</p>	<p>Sad to have confirmed a case of BSE in Aberdeenshire this morning, but good surveillance system is proved to work well. Disappointing news, but not unexpected to have occasional sporadic cases, and no effect on food safety.</p> <p>Comments –</p> <p>As sporadic cases are and should be expected, I would be more worried if we were not finding them.</p> <p>It's good news. People need to wake up to cheap mass produced food. -What does this have to do with cheap mass produced food?</p> <p>@british vets stands with you and the farming sector in #Scotland to work our way through this.</p> <p>Unfortunate that a single (rare) #BSE case confirmed, but, on the positive side, great to see that modern disease surveillance systems allow for quick detection and control, and that food safety is unaffected. Some valuable lessons were learned 30 years ago! #cattle.</p> <p>But were the lessons learned? Are animals who are naturally grass feeders still eating food which has animal derivatives in it? <i>Shelia replied - Ruminant proteins are banned and have been for over 10 years -</i> <a href="https://twitter.com/CVOScotland/status/1052872569433587712">https://twitter.com/CVOScotland/status/1052872569433587712</a></p> <p>Great job and heart out to the farmers and family, this will be devastating news for them.</p>
<p>The Courier</p>	<p>First BSE case in 10 years found on Scottish farm - <a href="https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/scotland/747345/first-bse-case-in-10-years-found-on-scottish-farm/?utm_source=dlvr.it&amp;utm_medium=twitter">https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/scotland/747345/first-bse-case-in-10-years-found-on-scottish-farm/?utm_source=dlvr.it&amp;utm_medium=twitter</a></p>
<p>Agriland</p>	<p>The disease was discovered on a farm in Aberdeenshire - <a href="http://www.agriland.ie/farming-news/bse-discovered-on-scottish-farm/">http://www.agriland.ie/farming-news/bse-discovered-on-scottish-farm/</a></p>
<p>Press and Journal</p>	<p>BSE found on Aberdeenshire farm - <a href="https://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/fp/business/farming/1588663/bse-found-on-aberdeenshire-farm/">https://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/fp/business/farming/1588663/bse-found-on-aberdeenshire-farm/</a></p>

The Evening Times	Case of mad cow disease found on Scottish farm - <a href="https://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/16991748.case-of-mad-cow-disease-found-on-scottish-farm/?ref=twtrrec">https://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/16991748.case-of-mad-cow-disease-found-on-scottish-farm/?ref=twtrrec</a>
The Scotsman	Case of <a href="#">#MadCowDisease</a> confirmed on farm in Aberdeenshire <a href="https://t.co/WOJIZ2I2ml">https://t.co/WOJIZ2I2ml</a> Case of <a href="#">#MadCowDisease</a> confirmed on farm in Aberdeenshire  A new case of BSE has been confirmed at an Aberdeenshire farm - here is everything need to know about the disease... video link  <a href="https://www.scotsman.com/news/environment/bse-found-in-scotland-everything-you-need-to-know-about-mad-cow-disease-1-4816771">https://www.scotsman.com/news/environment/bse-found-in-scotland-everything-you-need-to-know-about-mad-cow-disease-1-4816771</a>
The Guardian	<u>BSE case found on Aberdeenshire farm</u>  <a href="https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/oct/18/bse-case-found-on-aberdeenshire-farm?CMP=tw_tgu&amp;_twitter_impression=true">https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/oct/18/bse-case-found-on-aberdeenshire-farm?CMP=tw_tgu&amp;_twitter_impression=true</a>
BBC Scotland News	BREAKING: Case of BSE detected on a farm in Aberdeenshire <a href="https://bbc.in/2PHmnJo">https://bbc.in/2PHmnJo</a>
Scot Gov Greener @Greener Scotland	. <a href="#">@CVOScotland</a> confirms no risk to human health after a case of classical BSE has been detected in Aberdeenshire. <a href="https://news.gov.scot/news/bse">https://news.gov.scot/news/bse</a>  Following a confirmed case of classical BSE in Aberdeenshire, <a href="#">@FergusEwingMSP</a> has activated <a href="#">@ScotGov</a> response plan, including establishing a precautionary movement ban on the farm <a href="https://news.gov.scot/news/bse">https://news.gov.scot/news/bse</a> <a href="https://twitter.com/GreenerScotland/status/1052862869103136768">https://twitter.com/GreenerScotland/status/1052862869103136768</a>  <u>Comments:</u> Scaremongering at its best ,sensational headlines online via newspapers ...its an isolated incident..but all part of the plan to scare people witless.  I'm heartened to see how quickly the scottish government and support services have swung into action.  was it imported cattle ?
Fergus Ewing	Disappointing to have a confirmed case of BSE in Aberdeenshire. Scotland's Chief Veterinary Officer is leading co-ordination of activity with her animal health & welfare team & other agencies & is liaising closely with other CVOs across the UK-Defra are also being kept appraised... Full thread link: <a href="https://twitter.com/FergusEwingMSP/status/1052876322198839296">https://twitter.com/FergusEwingMSP/status/1052876322198839296</a>

	<p>Nicola Sturgeon linked to Mr Ewing's thread:  "Thread below has important information from <a href="#">@FergusEwingMSP</a> on confirmation of case of BSE in Aberdeenshire."</p>
Alex Burnett MSP (Con)	<p>I would like to express my sympathy to the farmer involved and their family. I understand that precautionary movements have been put in place and that further investigations are ongoing, with no reason to suspect that this has entered the food chain. (1/2)  I recognise that having been BSE-free for so many years this will be a huge blow to the Scottish beef industry. I appreciate <a href="#">@scotgov</a> quick response to date on this issue, and urge a similarly fast investigation to identify the origin of the disease. (2/2)</p> <p><a href="https://twitter.com/AJABurnett/status/1052874585257979904">https://twitter.com/AJABurnett/status/1052874585257979904</a></p>
Chris Musson (Scottish Political editor of The Scottish Sun)	<p>To put the BSE case in a cow in Aberdeenshire into perspective: there have been cases in UK since last major outbreak in 2000, but only a handful, and none in Scotland since 2008. This shows latest incidences (last one in 2015 in GB, but no 2017/18 data)  <a href="http://www.oie.int/animal-health-in-the-world/bse-situation-in-the-world-and-annual-incidence-rate/number-of-cases-in-the-united-kingdom/...">http://www.oie.int/animal-health-in-the-world/bse-situation-in-the-world-and-annual-incidence-rate/number-of-cases-in-the-united-kingdom/ ...</a></p> <p><a href="https://twitter.com/camusson/status/1052876153944457216">https://twitter.com/camusson/status/1052876153944457216</a></p>
ITV News	<p>Case of <b>BSE</b>, commonly known as mad cow disease, confirmed on Scottish farm <a href="http://www.itv.com/news/2018-10-18/mad-cow-disease-confirmed-on-scottish-farm/...">http://www.itv.com/news/2018-10-18/mad-cow-disease-confirmed-on-scottish-farm/ ...</a></p> <p><a href="https://twitter.com/itvnews/status/1052873432529100800">https://twitter.com/itvnews/status/1052873432529100800</a></p>
Farmer's Weekly	<p><b>BREAKING:</b> Isolated case of classical <b>#BSE</b> found in cow on farm in Aberdeenshire. First case in Scotland for 10 years. Animal did not enter food chain, risk to public 'low'. Fully story follows.</p> <p>Cattle farmers urged to stay vigilant after first case of BSE detected on Scottish farm since 2009 <a href="http://buff.ly/2EtG2uV">buff.ly/2EtG2uV</a> <b>#BSE</b> <b>#livestock</b> <b>#diseases</b></p> <p><a href="https://twitter.com/FarmersWeekly/status/1052884724270751750">https://twitter.com/FarmersWeekly/status/1052884724270751750</a></p>
Express	<p>Mad cow disease RETURNS to UK: BSE case discovered on farm in Aberdeenshire, Scotland.</p> <p><a href="https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/1033227/mad-cow-disease-BSE-UK-aberdeenshire-scotland">https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/1033227/mad-cow-disease-BSE-UK-aberdeenshire-scotland</a></p>

BBC Breakfast	<p>BREAKING: A case of <b>BSE</b> has been confirmed on a farm in Aberdeenshire. <b>Scotland's</b> Chief Veterinary Officer, Sheila Voas, said: "I would urge any farmer who has concerns to immediately seek veterinary advice."</p> <p><a href="https://twitter.com/BBCBreakfast/status/1052868700674510851">https://twitter.com/BBCBreakfast/status/1052868700674510851</a></p>
The Independent	<p>Mad cow disease case found on farm in Scotland – A case of BSE, commonly known as mad cow disease, has been detected on a farm in Aberdeenshire, officials have revealed.</p> <p><a href="https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/mad-cow-disease-scotland-bse-case-new-aberdeenshire-uk-animal-a8589811.html">https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/mad-cow-disease-scotland-bse-case-new-aberdeenshire-uk-animal-a8589811.html</a></p>
Farmers Journal	<p>A classical case of <a href="#">#BSE</a> was identified on farm as part of routine surveillance in the northeast of <a href="#">#Scotland</a>.</p> <p><a href="https://www.farmersjournal.ie/case-of-bse-confirmed-in-scotland-412442">https://www.farmersjournal.ie/case-of-bse-confirmed-in-scotland-412442</a></p>
CNN International @cnni	<p>This is the first incidence of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (<b>BSE</b>), as the disease is officially known, in Britain since a massive outbreak devastated the farming industry over several years around the 1990s</p> <p><a href="https://edition.cnn.com/2018/10/18/uk/scotland-mad-cow-disease-intl/index.html?utm_source=twCNNi&amp;utm_content=2018-10-18T11%3A54%3A52&amp;utm_term=link&amp;utm_medium=social">https://edition.cnn.com/2018/10/18/uk/scotland-mad-cow-disease-intl/index.html?utm_source=twCNNi&amp;utm_content=2018-10-18T11%3A54%3A52&amp;utm_term=link&amp;utm_medium=social</a></p>
BBC News	<p>"It's really bad news if it spreads, but this is only one case" - Movement ban now in place after BSE or 'mad cow disease' is found at a farm in Aberdeenshire <a href="http://bbc.in/2CSfEJS">bbc.in/2CSfEJS</a></p>
BVA – British Veterinary Association	<p>The confirmed case of classical <a href="#">#BSE</a> in Aberdeenshire is sad news, but we are pleased that the comprehensive and robust veterinary surveillance system was able to quickly and effectively detect this potential risk. Read our statement: <a href="http://ow.ly/FRZP30mhxOR">ow.ly/FRZP30mhxOR</a></p>
Scottish Conservatives @ScotTories	<p>This is a potentially extremely serious issue for farming in Scotland, and particularly the north east. Having been free of BSE for many years this is a very concerning development.</p> <p>'This is a very concerning development. Now we need everyone to work together to find out everything they can about the case. Peter Chapman MSP</p>
Farmers Guardian	<p>A case of BSE has been confirmed on a farm in Aberdeenshire. More information here: <a href="http://fginsight.com/news/top-stories">fginsight.com/news/top-stories</a></p>
The Grocer	<p>BSE case found on Scottish beef farm <a href="http://bit.ly/2EvDDQA">bit.ly/2EvDDQA</a></p>

Sky News Breaking	The Scottish Government says a case of BSE or 'mad cow disease' has been confirmed on a farm in Aberdeenshire
NewsDirect	BREAKING: A case of BSE has been confirmed on a farm in Aberdeenshire.
Edinburgh News	Here's everything you need to know about 'Mad Cow Disease' after the latest BSE outbreak <a href="https://www.edinburghnews.com.uk/news/2018/oct/18/mad-cow-disease-confirmed-on-a-farm-in-aberdeenshire-1-4711111">.bit.ly/2CSy39n</a>
Guardian Scotland	Movement ban imposed on Aberdeenshire farm following <a href="https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/oct/18/bse-case-found-on-aberdeenshire-farm?CMP=share_btn_tw">#BSE</a> case - <a href="https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/oct/18/bse-case-found-on-aberdeenshire-farm?CMP=share_btn_tw">@severincarrell</a> reports <a href="https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/oct/18/bse-case-found-on-aberdeenshire-farm?CMP=share_btn_tw">https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/oct/18/bse-case-found-on-aberdeenshire-farm?CMP=share_btn_tw</a>
WAR International @wildlifeat risk	Scotland A case of BSE – also known as Mad Cow Disease – has been confirmed on a farm in Scotland. <a href="https://metro.co.uk/2018/10/18/mad-cow-disease-confirmed-on-a-farm-in-the-uk-8051189/?ito=social">https://metro.co.uk/2018/10/18/mad-cow-disease-confirmed-on-a-farm-in-the-uk-8051189/?ito=social</a>
Nine News Australia	A case of BSE, also known as Mad Cow disease, has been confirmed on a farm in Aberdeenshire, the Scottish government says. <a href="https://www.9news.com.au/news/2018/10/18/mad-cow-disease-confirmed-on-a-farm-in-aberdeenshire-1-4711111">#9News</a>
Real Eddie Hobbs	<a href="https://www.theguardian.com/uk/2000/oct/26/bse3">#bse</a> the Back Story <a href="https://www.theguardian.com/uk/2000/oct/26/bse3">https://www.theguardian.com/uk/2000/oct/26/bse3</a>

### Individual Comments

@LeaksTwitt	Untrue. They use threat of <b>BSE</b> to shoot Male calves on site. Now that live transportation has been stopped from <b>Scotland</b> to Ireland I was wondering when they would do this. <a href="https://twitter.com/LeaksTwitt">#WoolOverEyes</a>
@caulmick	Case of Mad Cow <b>BSE</b> discovered in <b>Scotland</b> . Watch how the state responds to that compared to the crisis of thousands of children homeless <a href="https://twitter.com/caulmick">#not1home</a>
@Celtlink	Think you find it has been residing in No.10 Downing Street for about 2 years!! <a href="https://twitter.com/Celtlink">#brexit</a> Mad cow disease RETURNS to UK: <b>BSE</b> case discovered on farm in Aberdeenshire, <b>Scotland</b>
@AndrewRTDavies	Important message for the public (and journalists!) across UK to note from <b>Scotland's</b> Chief Vet following confirmation of a case of <b>BSE</b> in Aberdeenshire
@ScotTories	This is a potentially extremely serious issue for farming in <b>Scotland</b> , and particularly the north east. Having been free of <b>BSE</b> for many years this is a very concerning development.
@Houlden_Lab	Monitoring working, hope that this is just a sporadic case of <b>BSE</b> in <b>scotland</b> <a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-north-east-orkney-shetland-45901043">https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-north-east-orkney-shetland-45901043</a> ...
@camusson	To put the <b>BSE</b> case in a cow in Aberdeenshire into perspective: there have been cases in UK since last major outbreak in 2000, but only a handful, and none in <b>Scotland</b> since 2008. This shows latest incidences (last one in 2015 in GB, but no 2017/18 data) <a href="http://www.oie.int/animal-health-in-the-world/bse-situation-in-the-world-and-annual-incidence-rate/number-of-cases-in-the-united-kingdom/">http://www.oie.int/animal-health-in-the-world/bse-situation-in-the-world-and-annual-incidence-rate/number-of-cases-in-the-united-kingdom/</a> ...

<p>@acicconeyouth posted in response</p>	<p>Replying to <a href="#">@camusson</a></p> <p>Mass farming is killing the planet ... eat less meat from today</p> 
<p>@nicolebourcier</p>	<p><a href="#">#News</a> that <a href="#">#Madcowdisease</a> <a href="#">#BSE</a> has been found in <a href="#">#Scotland</a>. good a time as any for anyone thinking of becoming <a href="#">#vegan</a></p>
<p>@bellshillbaker</p>	<p><b>BSE</b> confirmed on farm in Aberdeenshire. Cannot help thinking that the well is being poisoned here ahead of lower food standards being pushed from USA. They are already destroying <b>Scotland</b> the Brand.</p>
<p>@pascalR57 posting to <a href="#">@BBCnewsbreaking</a></p>	<p>Mad cow disease is CJD. This is BSE, do we not remember the thousands of carcasses being set on fire? Not at all funny.</p>
<p><a href="#">@faisalislam</a></p>	<p>Extraordinary timing - Brexit backstop significance: we filmed at the port in Larne last week where cattle exported from GB to NI/ ROI are already checked, and these are the type of checks and reason for the checks that EU want to continue &amp; expand in backstop, rejected by DUP</p>
<p>@julesBCS</p>	<p>Replying to <a href="#">@faisalislam</a> <a href="#">@KeohaneDan</a></p> <p>You are talking utter twaddle. All our beef cattle is tested numerous times for BSE well away from ANY border. Beasts have their own passport and can be traced back to an individual farm. FSA are on site at all abattoirs as are vets.</p>
<p>@BryanRutherford</p>	<p>NFU <a href="#">#Scotland</a> President says so-called mad cow disease found at <a href="#">#Aberdeenshire</a> farm is a “sporadic” case of BSE which did not enter human food chain</p>
<p>@_GillianHarris</p>	<p>Investigation underway to identify source of BSE outbreak at Aberdeenshire farm <a href="#">scotsman.com/regions/aberde_____...</a></p>
<p><a href="#">@mtm800e</a></p>	<p>‘Mad cow disease’ at Aberdeenshire farm after BSE confirmed <a href="#">supernewsupdate.com/mad-cow-diseas_____...</a></p>
<p>Jonathan Hamer <a href="#">@ham3r</a></p>	<p>BSE in the UK. Just what <a href="#">#Brexit</a> Britain needs right now .... Farm locked down after mad cow disease found in Scotland</p>
<p>Ed <a href="#">@eapbe</a></p>	<p>Well that didn't last long. BBC News - Fergus Ewing calls for drop in Scotland's BSE risk status</p>

	<a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-36608605">https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-36608605</a>
@ConcretewordsforEU	Oh hell. Thank goodness for our vets who will no doubt be travelling around the country now testing other cattle and keeping us safe! Did you know that 1 in 5 vets in the UK veterinary workforce are from the EU27? <a href="#">#StopBrexit</a> "Mad Cow Disease"
@IndyRef2	Here's how BBC Wales reported the last case of BSE in the UK in 2015. Pretty underwhelming report. Matter of fact. No sensationalism. As it should be.
Media Monitoring – 18/11/18	See below
Media Digest – 19/10/18	See below

**From:** Precise Broadcast Logs<Redacted>  
**Sent:** 18 October 2018 19:15:11  
**To:** Media Monitoring  
**Subject:** Communications: Out of hours Broadcast Log 18.Oct.2018  
**Auto forwarded by a Rule**

Media Monitoring – 18/11/18

## Scottish Government Communications Broadcast Summary: 18-Oct-2018

### BBC Radio Scotland 16:00 - 18:00

**A case of BSE so called mad cow disease has been confirmed at a farm in Aberdeenshire.** The exact location of the farm has not been revealed by the Scottish government. The government says that the precautionary movement restrictions have been put in place. It is the first confirmed case in Scotland in a decade.

**British Prime Minister Theresa May said Thursday she is considering a European Union proposal that would keep Britain bound to the bloc's rules for more than two years after it leaves,** and idea that angers her pro Brexit critics in the UK.

**US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and UK International Trade Secretary Liam Fox have pulled out of an investment conference in Saudi Arabia.** It comes amid allegations the country was behind the killing of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi. Mr Khashoggi has not been seen since entering the Saudi consulate in Istanbul on 2 October, where Turkish officials allege he was killed.

**The murder trial of a missing woman has been deserted at the high court in Glasgow.** The jury was told that a number of matters had arisen and further details could not be given which will lead the trial not to go ahead but will probably proceed in the future.

**A man who has issues with religion has admitted setting fire to the doors of a Sikh temple and a church.** Paul Johnson used petrol to ignite the doors of Edinburgh's Guru Nanak Sikh Temple and Leith Methodist Church this summer because he wanted to make a political statement.

**One of Glasgow's most popular venues for weddings and events is to close because of safety concerns.** The Winter Gardens on Glasgow Green needs at least £5m worth of repairs and will shut indefinitely at the end of the year. Glasgow City Council said it was working on ways to ensure the adjoining People's Palace museum stays open.

**Banks will begin checking that names on transfers match the account and warn customers if there is a discrepancy, in a move designed to stop fraud.** Currently, lenders only check the account number and sort code for bank transfers, making it easier for fraudsters to convince customers to transfer money by saying the account belongs to a trustworthy company.

**Kleenex has announced it will be binning man-sized tissues in a shock twist to the company's long-running product line.** The company is known for their paper-based products ranging from facial tissue to women's hygiene products.

**A case of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) has been confirmed on a farm in Aberdeenshire.** The Scottish government said that precautionary movement restrictions have been put in place at the farm, while further investigations to identify the origin of the disease proceed.

**Brexiters react angrily to the suggestion that the UK's post-Brexit transition period could be extended by a year,** that would mean the UK would have to peer into the EU and be its rules without having a veto at meetings until the end of 2021.

**The Scottish Government has published guidance for businesses aimed at helping them identify and prevent human trafficking and exploitation.** It calls on firms to carry out checks to ensure workers have access to their identification documents, and to provide employees with training to spot the signs of exploitation.

**The UK's international trade secretary, Liam Fox, has pulled out of attending a major Saudi investment conference next week in the wake of the suspected murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi.** The UK remains very concerned about Jamal Khashoggi's disappearance.

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**EU leaders heaped pressure on Theresa May today saying the EU summit had changed nothing as Tories erupted in fury today over claims the PM could keep Britain lashed to Brussels for longer to ease the Irish border standoff.**

**The UK's international trade secretary, Liam Fox, has pulled out of attending a major Saudi investment conference next week in the wake of the suspected murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi.** The UK remains very concerned about Jamal Khashoggi's disappearance.

**A man who has issues with religion has admitted setting fire to the doors of a Sikh temple and a church.** Paul Johnson used petrol to ignite the doors of Edinburgh's Guru Nanak Sikh Temple and Leith Methodist Church this summer because he wanted to make a political statement.

**The former chief constable of police Scotland Phil Gormley has been appointed to rule inspecting police and fire and rescue services.** Mr. Gormley who resigned earlier this year amid a series of allegations of misconduct which he strenuously denied will take up his new job on Monday.

**The US Secretary of state Mike Pompeo arrived in the Saudi capital Riyadh on Tuesday to discuss the disappearance of journalist Jamal Khashoggi with King Salman.** He said that Saudi Arabia will be given a few more days to investigate the journalist's disappearance.

**The UK's international trade secretary, Liam Fox, has pulled out of attending a major Saudi investment conference next week in the wake of the suspected murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi.** The UK remains very concerned about Jamal Khashoggi's disappearance.

**Cobalt, the Cypriot airline, has collapsed overnight. Tens of thousands of passengers are waking up to find that their tickets for future travel to and from Cyprus and Greece are worthless.** The government has said it will help passengers left stranded by the collapse of the low cost airline cobalt the carrier has halted all flights including services to and from Heathrow Gatwick and Stansted.

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**Norway's government on Wednesday officially apologized to Norwegian women targeted for reprisals by authorities for having intimate relations with German soldiers during the country's wartime occupation.** Between 30,000 to 50,000 Norwegians, labeled German girls had intimate relations with occupying troops during World War II, according to conservative estimates from Norway's Center for Studies of Holocaust and Religious Minorities.

**Conservative MP Sir Paul Beresford struggled to understand a question from the SNP's David Linden due to his Glaswegian accent.** The New Zealand-born politician asked Mr Linden to repeat himself twice, and then requested he speak more slowly.

**A case of BSE, commonly known as mad cow disease, has been detected on a farm in Aberdeenshire, Scotland, officials have revealed.** A statement issued by Scottish authorities said 'precautionary movement restrictions' had been put in place at the farm.

**British Prime Minister Theresa May says she is considering a European Union proposal that would keep Britain bound to the bloc's rules for more than two years after Brexit.** With divorce talks stuck, the bloc has suggested extending that period, to give more time to strike a trade deal.

**Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin has tweeted he's pulling out of the Future Investment Initiative summit in Saudi Arabia** This in the wake of the disappearance of Washington Post columnist Jamal Khashoggi as evidence piles up the journalist was tortured at the direction of Saudi prince MBS, inside the Saudi consulate in Turkey, that he was murdered during the interrogation, and his body cut up and removed in diplomatic bags.

**A man who had issues with religion started fires at two places of worship within minutes of each other.** Paul Johnson was arrested for the fires at a Methodist church and a Sikh temple in Edinburgh in August this year. The 49-year-old admitted two charges of wilful fire raising aggravated by religious prejudice at the High Court in Edinburgh.

**Demand for advice on rent arrears has increased by 40% over the last five years, according to a new report.** Citizens Advice Scotland (CAS) blamed changes to the social security system for the rise in the number of people facing problems paying their rent. It said the increasing demand matched the period in which Universal Credit has been rolled out.

**The A83 Rest and Be Thankful road in Argyll has reopened after several landslides forced closures lasting more than a week.** Traffic was shut off from the Rest And Be Thankful since thousands of tonnes of debris reached catch-fences above the carriageway on Tuesday October 9 following heavy rain.

**GP is calling for doctors to have more training in spotting the signs of early menopause.** One in 100 women in the UK experience the change before their 40. Dr Lewis Newton runs an early menopause wellbeing centre and she says it can be devastating for women if symptoms are not caught early.

**A group of tiny, rare snails have finally found a new home in Edinburgh's Pentlands in what has been hailed as**

**a 'vital step' to save the species.** Populations of the vulnerable pond mud snails in the UK have almost halved over the past 25 years due to habitat loss.

**A case of BSE, so-called mad cow disease, has been identified at a farm in Scotland, a decade since it was last confirmed.** The case was identified as part of the routine testing of all animals over four years of age that die on farms. Scotland's 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.'

**The EU says it is ready to extend the proposed length of the post-Brexit transition period if the UK wants.** The current plan is for a transition period of 21 months to smooth the path from Brexit to the UK and EU's future permanent relationship. But with the two sides failing to reach a deal yet, UK Prime Minister Theresa May has suggested extending this arrangement 'for a few months'. And an EU source told the BBC there would have to be 'financial implications' if the UK did extend the transition period.

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**The former chief constable of Police Scotland, who quit amid bullying claims, has landed a new job inspecting forces in England.** He had faced a series of investigations into claims of bullying, which he has always denied. Phil Gormley, who resigned in February, will be an inspector of constabulary, assessing and reporting on the report on the efficiency and effectiveness of 12 police forces in the north of England.

**The distinctive black helmet worn by Darth Vader in star wars is going under the hammer.** The head gear which was originally used for the empire strikes back is thought to be worth between 15 and 20000 £.

**One of Glasgow's most popular venues for weddings and events is to close because of safety concerns.** The Winter Gardens on Glasgow Green needs at least £5m worth of repairs and will shut indefinitely at the end of the year.

Glasgow City Council said it was working on ways to ensure the adjoining People's Palace museum stays open. A council spokesman said it had not been accepting bookings for 2019 at the gardens for some time.

**The Sagrada Familia basilica in Barcelona, one of Spain's most famous tourist sites, has agreed to pay \$41m to the city authorities after going without a building permit for more than 130 years.** The spectacular church designed by architect Antoni Gaudí, is a Unesco world heritage site and still under construction. Barcelona's mayor said the deal was an historic agreement.

**Cherry blossoms, have been regarded as a herald of spring for thousands of years and the industry that springs up cherry blossom viewing each year is worth millions.** But this year, Japan-based Weather News reports that there have already been sightings of the delicate, fleeting blooms up and down the country and months ahead of schedule. The site claims that over 350 flowering trees have been spotted.

## **STV 18:00 - 18:30**

**A case of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy has been confirmed on a farm in Aberdeenshire.** The instance of so-called 'mad cow disease' is understood to revolve around only one animal and officials say there is no threat to human life. A quarantine has been put in place at the farm, which STV News understands to be in <Redacted>, while further investigations to identify the origin of the disease take place.

**The UK Prime Minister's ability to deliver a Brexit agreement is looking increasingly 'distressed' tonight.** Conservative MPs have reacted with fury to a suggestion that the transition period for fully leaving the EU could be extended to allow time to thrash out an agreement on the Irish border. EU council president Donald Tusk said the institutions will work positively to strike a deal and that he stands ready to organise an emergency summit if it is necessary.

**Concerns over the UK's post-Brexit future are increasingly weighing on business confidence in Scotland, a quarterly survey has suggested.** The Scottish Chambers of Commerce found robust financial results across sectors in the third quarter of this year. But 21% of firms reported that they were less optimistic about the business environment than they were three months earlier. The chambers of commerce said uncertainty was growing 'around the future trading environment with the European Union'.

**The trial of two carers accused of murdering a missing disabled woman more than 18 years ago has collapsed.** Edward Cairney and Avril Jones were on trial at the High Court in Glasgow accused of murdering Margaret Fleming and pocketing £182,000 in benefits by fraud by pretending she was alive. They denied murdering her by means unknown and also deny claiming £182,000 in benefits fraud by pretending she was alive.

**The A83 trunk road linking central Scotland with Argyll has reopened to traffic more than a week after a series of landslides near the Rest and Be Thankful.** Trunk roads maintenance company BEAR Scotland announced on Thursday morning that the route was open to traffic again – albeit under the control of temporary traffic lights after severe landslips on October 9 and 12.

**Police have charged a second man in connection with the death of a man in North Lanarkshire.** Kevin McGuire, 51, was discovered critically injured outside his home in Morar Street, Wishaw, at about 00:30 on Sunday. A 30-year-old man has been arrested and charged and is due to appear at Hamilton Sheriff Court alongside a 26-year-old man charged on Wednesday.

**The Scottish Government has published guidance for businesses aimed at helping them identify and prevent human trafficking and exploitation.** It calls on firms to carry out checks to ensure workers have access to their identification documents, and to provide employees with training to spot the signs of exploitation. However, research undertaken by the government shows a 'significant minority' of businesses do not appear to have published statements.

**Scottish house prices rose faster than the UK as a whole in the year to August, according to a report.** Official house sales data showed the average price of a property in Scotland was £153,309 - 4.1% higher than in August 2017. Across the UK, the average cost of a home was £232,800, an increase of 3.2% on the previous year.

**One of Glasgow's most popular venues for weddings and events is to close because of safety concerns.** The Winter Gardens on Glasgow Green needs at least £5m worth of repairs and will shut indefinitely at the end of the year. Glasgow City Council said it was working on ways to ensure the adjoining People's Palace museum stays open.

## **BBC 1 Scotland 18:30 - 19:00**

**The first case of BSE in Scotland in more than a decade has been confirmed on a farm in Aberdeenshire.** The five-year-old cow tested positive for so-called 'mad cow disease', after it died on a farm near <Redacted>. Scotland's chief vet says there's no risk to the public.

**A number of Scottish Conservative MPs have expressed concern about the idea of extending the Brexit transition period if it means staying in the Common Fisheries Policy for longer.** Theresa May says she is open to extending the period after we leave but before rules change, by months. The Scottish Government says it is a sensible idea, but that it must deliver a better deal.

**A man has admitted starting fires at a church and a Sikh temple in Edinburgh.** The prosecutor at the High Court in Edinburgh said Paul Johnson told police that he had problems with God and religion, and that he wanted to watch the buildings burn down.

**The A83 at the Rest and Be Thankful in Argyll has reopened after a full safety assessment and a final police check.** It had been closed since heavy rain caused a number of landslips last week. Temporary traffic lights will remain on the A83 and a 24-hour recovery vehicle and additional patrols will be on hand for the next few days.

**A 'significant minority' of big businesses are failing to meet a legal requirement to show what they are doing to tackle modern slavery, according to the Scottish Government.** The Justice Secretary says he has written to almost 40 Scottish firms urging them to take action.

**A murder trial concerning a missing woman has been deserted at the High Court in Glasgow.** The jury was told that a number of matters had arisen and, while details could not be given, the trial could not go ahead. However, it would probably proceed in the future. Margaret Fleming was reported missing in 2016.

**One of Glasgow's most popular tourist venues is to close because of safety concerns.** The Grade A listed Winter Gardens on Glasgow Green needs at least #5 million worth of repairs. It will close indefinitely at the end of the year.

**The experience of conscientious objectors, who refused to fight in the First World War, is highlighted in a poignant letter from the archives of Glasgow Caledonian University.** It was written by a young father to his baby daughter, after he had been sent to a labour camp in Argyll.

**A charity has claimed that changes to the social security system have led to more rent arrears.** Citizens Advice Scotland says it is seen a 47 percent increase in new cases in four years. It has cited flaws in the new Universal Credit as one of the main reasons.

**A Scotswoman has set a new world record for a woman cycling around the world.** Jenny Graham from Inverness arrived in Berlin in the last few hours after circumnavigating the globe without a support team. She beat the previous record by a whopping 19 days.

Media digest -19/10/18

## **5. RURAL ECONOMY**

Daily Mail 36 **Farm sealed off after first case of mad cow disease in three years**  
MAD cow disease has returned to Britain for the first time in three years, with a case

confirmed at a Scottish farm yesterday. Routine tests on a dead cow at a beef farm in Aberdeenshire found the animal was carrying bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), more commonly known as mad cow disease. The disease can be fatal if transmitted to humans who eat infected meat, but experts said there was no

i (The paper for today) 6 **Mad cow disease found on farm in Scotland in first case for a decade** A case of BSE, also known as "mad cow disease", has been recorded on a farm in Scotland As livestock on the farm were quarantined last night for further investigation, the Scottish Government insisted that the diseased animal did not represent a threat to human health. The outbreak is understood to involve a beef herd in the <Redacted> area, Aberdeenshire, and was detected during routine monitoring. The Animal Health Agency

The Daily Telegraph 2 **Animals to be culled after mad cow outbreak in Scotland** ALL livestock on an Aberdeenshire farm will be destroyed after a case of "mad cow disease" was identified, the first in Britain since 2015. A movement ban has been put on the unnamed estate in <Redacted>, 40 miles from Aberdeen, to prevent the disease spreading further, after one dead cow was diagnosed during routine testing. The Scottish Government said that no infected meat had entered the food chain. It has

The Guardian 5 **Movement ban imposed on Aberdeenshire cattle farm after BSE case** A movement ban has been imposed on a beef farm in Aberdeenshire after a case of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), or mad cow disease, was found in its herd. The Scottish government and beef industry moved to reassure consumers there was no threat to human health or any wider impact for Scottish farmers after BSE was found during routine tests on a dead cow. The case, thought to have been

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 26 **Vital need for perspective over BSE case** Many of us in the Highlands and Grampian can remember only too clearly the apocalyptic scenes which followed a government crackdown over bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) more than 20 years ago. Known in the vernacular in its lurid form as "mad cow disease", it tore through the cattle industry and devastated the lives and businesses of many farmers. Worrying news that a case has just been detected at a farm

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 2 **Anxiety over BSE in Aberdeenshire** Farm leaders have been quick to reassure consumers of the safety of Scottish beef after a case of BSE was confirmed on an Aberdeenshire farm. It is the first time in a decade the disease has been detected in Scotland. But despite it being described as a "nightmare" for farmers, the Scottish Government and industry leaders last night stressed consumers had nothing to worry about. The latest case was found

The Press and Journal (Inverness, Highlands & Islands) 1 **BSE discovery 'nightmare' for farming sector** INVESTIGATIONS are under way after a case of BSE was identified at an Aberdeenshire farm a decade since it was last confirmed in Scotland. Restrictions are in place at the farm in Lumsden, near <Redacted>, while the source of the disease is established. Last night the case was described as a

"nightmare" for farmers, as countries such as China have only this year started to lift bans on certain Scottish

The Scotsman 8 **Food industry reassures after Scotland's first BSE case in a decade revealed** Food industry chiefs in Scotland have said they don't expect exports to suffer after the first case of so-called "mad cow" disease in a decade emerged on an Aberdeenshire farm yesterday. Restrictions have been put in place at the farm in the <Redacted> area. Three other cattle and one calf on the site have been slaughtered as part of measures to control the situation. A precautionary movement ban has been

The Times 4 **Health chiefs set up cordon after first mad cow case in three years** The discovery of the first case of mad cow disease in Britain for three years will not push the beef industry back to the days of the 1990s, say farmers' leaders, and is no risk to people. Yesterday all cattle movements around a farm in Aberdeenshire were halted as health experts moved in to seal off the premises and destroy all cattle with a direct connection to the animal that

Daily Express (Scotland) 5 **Mad cow disease case found in routine testing at Scottish farm** A CASE of mad cow disease has been identified at an Aberdeenshire farm a decade since it was last confirmed in Scotland. Restrictions have been put in place at the farm, which has not been named, as investigators try to establish the source of the fatal disease, known in full as Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE). The case was identified as part of the routine testing of all animals over four

Daily Mail (Scotland) 18 **Openness on BSE key for reassuring public** THE public have every right to be concerned as BSE, so-called mad cow disease, appears in Scotland after a decade. The disease is devastating in animals and in humans leads to Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, a horrific form of rapidly advancing and lethal dementia. There is, however, cause for hope even as a cow on an Aberdeenshire farm has died while others are being culled as a precaution. Firstly, monitoring systems put

Daily Mail (Scotland) 1 **mad cow disease returns** THE first case of mad cow disease in Scotland for a decade was confirmed on a farm yesterday. Tests on a dead cow near <Redacted>, Aberdeenshire, showed it had been killed by bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) infection. The farm was immediately put into lockdown, but government officials were quick to stress there was no immediate threat to humans. The deadly brain condition and its human equivalent are commonly passed on

Metro (Scotland) 4 **First mad cow disease case at Scots farm in a decade** THE first case of BSE - so-called mad cow disease - for nearly a decade has been identified at a Scottish farm. Restrictions have been put in place at the unnamed farm - believed to be in the <Redacted> area of Aberdeenshire - as investigators try to establish the source of the fatal disease, known in full as Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy. The case was identified as part of the routine

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 2 **Single mad cow case will lead to cull ALL LIVESTOCK** on an Aberdeenshire farm will be destroyed after a case of "mad cow

disease" was identified, the first in Britain since 2015. A movement ban has been put on the unnamed estate in <Redacted>, 40 miles from Aberdeen, to prevent the disease spreading further, after one dead cow was diagnosed during routine testing. The Scottish government said that no infected meat had entered the food chain. It has

The Daily Telegraph (Scotland) 1 **Mad cow disease on Aberdeenshire farm** All livestock on an Aberdeenshire farm will be destroyed after a case of "mad cow disease" was identified, the first in Britain since 2015. A movement ban has been put on the unnamed estate in <Redacted>, 40 miles from Aberdeen, to prevent the disease spreading further, after one dead cow was diagnosed during routine testing. The Scottish government said that no infected meat had entered the food chain.  
Page 2

The Herald 1 **Mad cow disease on farm deals bitter blow to industry** THE first case of mad cow disease in Scotland for a decade has been confirmed in a beef herd in Aberdeenshire, in a bitterly disappointing setback for the farming industry. The Scottish Government imposed a precautionary ban on animal movements at the unnamed farm in <Redacted> after the identification of BSE (bovine spongiform encephalopathy). Ministers stressed the five-year-old animal involved did not enter the food chain, and was a case

The Herald 5 **Meat industry shock at mad cow case** FARMERS and the meat industry last night tried to put a brave face on the return of BSE to Scotland, as it wiped out the country's prized "negligible risk" status at a stroke. It was only in May 2017, after Scotland had been BSE-free for eight and a half years, that the World Organisation for Animal Health in Paris conferred the status, helping to open up international markets for beef

The Sun (Scotland) 4 **A COSTLY BLOW** SCOTS farmers were facing a £5million-a-year blow to the beef industry yesterday following the first case of Mad Cow Disease in more than a decade. Chiefs fear the first discovery of BSE since 2008 could result in a major fall in beef prices putting extra strain on livelihoods. The Scottish Government revealed the case meant our international BSE risk status had been upgraded to the same level as the rest

The Times (Scotland) 1 **Don't panic about mad cow disease, say farmers** The discovery of the first case of mad cow disease on a Scottish farm in ten years will not push the beef industry back to the desperate days of the 1990s, industry leaders have said. All movements of cattle were halted around an Aberdeenshire farm yesterday as animal health experts moved in to quarantine the premises and destroy all livestock with a direct connection to the animal that had contracted

The National (Scotland) 8 **Restrictions put in place after BSE discovery** VETS have identified a case of BSE on a farm in Aberdeenshire - the first discovery of mad cow disease in Scotland in 10 years. Officials say there are no health risks and no danger to the human food chain, but with news of the discovery in <Redacted> being reported around the world it seems almost certain the findings will have a damaging impact on Scotland's food sector. Restrictions have

Daily Record 9 **LOCKDOWN OVER MAD COW DEATH** A FARM was on lockdown last night after Scotland's first case of mad cow disease in 10 years was detected. The discovery was made after routine testing of a fallen animal in a beef herd in Aberdeenshire. Bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), better known as mad cow disease, can't be diagnosed in live animals other than by looking for abnormal behaviour. An immediate ban was put in place preventing the movement

## **Attachment 7**

### **Background Briefing following confirmed case of BSE in Scotland**

#### **BSE – Disease background**

Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) is a disease in cattle. It belongs to a **group of diseases** called Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSEs) that affect the brain and nervous system of humans and animals. The diseases are characterised by a degeneration of brain tissue giving it a sponge-like appearance. Other examples include scrapie in sheep and chronic wasting disease in deer.

Epidemic classical BSE occurs through the consumption of feed contaminated with ruminant protein. Whilst classical BSE was identified as a significant problem in the 1990s, its occurrence has markedly decreased over the past years, as a result of the successful implementation of effective control measures.

Cattle affected by BSE experience progressive degeneration of the nervous system. Affected animals may display changes in temperament (nervousness or aggression), abnormal posture, incoordination and difficulty in rising, decreased milk production, or loss of condition without noticeable loss of appetite, leading ultimately to death. The causative agent of the disease is not completely characterised, and there is neither any treatment nor a vaccine to prevent the disease. The incubation period is from 2 to 8 years although some cases appear to be spontaneous. Following the onset of clinical signs, the animal's condition deteriorates progressively. This process usually takes from 2 weeks to 6 months.

There are different scientific hypotheses concerning the origins of BSE. The disease may have been caused by feeding cattle rendered protein produced from the carcasses of cattle with a previously unidentified, possibly sporadic (or genetic) transmissible spongiform encephalopathy (TSE). That was the preferred conclusion of the BSE Phillips Enquiry into its origins.

Research suggests that a pathogenic form of a normally occurring protein known as a prion (PrP.) is the cause of BSE. Prions are the only non-DNA-based agent capable of infecting and reproducing themselves in a living host. Proteins similar to prions already exist in the nervous tissue cell membrane in normal animals, but in a harmless form. After an incubation period of many years, prions in an infected host reproduce by recruiting the host's similar, harmless protein and changing its shape to that of the prion. Some individuals appear to be genetically susceptible to prion diseases.

The pathogenic form of the prion protein (PrP<sup>Sc</sup>) is extremely resistant to heat and to normal sterilization processes, making it difficult to inactivate with standard methods used to process human food and animal feed. Although rendering and other processes can partially inactivate PrP<sup>Sc</sup>, the risk mitigation strategies (for meat and meat products) rely mainly on the elimination of tissues and organs known to harbour BSE infectivity in infected animals.

Specified risk material (SRM) is those parts of cattle, sheep and goats that are most likely to pose a risk of infectivity if the animal which it comes from was infected with a transmissible spongiform encephalopathy (TSE) prion so it is essential that it is removed from both the human and animal food chains and destroyed.

An extremely rare form of spongiform encephalopathy called variant(v) Creutzfeld-Jakob Disease (CJD) occurs in humans and is likely to be caused by consuming meat from a bovine that has been infected with BSE, a similar prion disease to vCJD. Since the link between vCJD and BSE was discovered in 1996, strict controls have proved very effective in preventing meat from infected cattle entering the food chain.

## **BSE in Scotland**

The last confirmed case of Classical BSE in Scotland was in 2008, from a 1994 born animal

Scotland has been BSE free since 2009. In the years before that, there were relatively low numbers of BSE cases compared to the peak of the epidemic when there were 2208 clinical cases in 1993 . The marked decrease in the number of cases detected through passive surveillance is consistent with the long tail previously predicted by epidemiologists.

In recognition of our controls and disease freedom we were awarded negligible risk status by the OIE in May 2017.

A confirmed case of classical BSE alters Scotland's BSE status to Controlled Risk. Scotland will now have the same Controlled Risk status as England and Wales.

### **BSE Control measures**

There are strict controls in place to protect consumers and animals from the risk of BSE. These fall into 2 categories, firstly protecting animals from infection including though controls on animal feed, and secondly protection of the public by robust identification of cases and the removal of the parts of carcass most likely to carry BSE infectivity.

Current controls are part of an EU plan to control BSE, The TSE Roadmap.

These important protection measures remain in place and that Food Standards Scotland Official Veterinarians and Meat Hygiene Inspectors in all Scottish slaughterhouses will continue to work to ensure that in respect of BSE controls, the safety of consumers remains a priority.

### **Animal controls:**

1. Since 1996 it has been illegal to feed ruminant protein such as meat and bone meal and most other animal proteins to livestock species. This prevents the risk of disease spread through feeding.
2. Animals at higher risk of infection such as cohorts are identified and removed to reduce potential for other cases.
3. Animal waste is categorised according to risk into 3 categories and there are strict controls over what each category may be used for and how it is disposed of. For example only material that is fit for human consumption but is not so intended (Cat. 3) can be used in pet food; Cat. 1 material the highest risk which includes ruminant fallen stock and SRM may only be disposed of by pressure rendering or incineration.

### **Public health controls:**

1. Until recently older bovine animals, initially over 30 months, but ultimately those born prior to 1996 when enhanced controls on feeding were enforced, have been prevented from entering the food chain under any circumstances. These controls have been reduced stepwise in line with the risk level determined by scientific experts including medics and vets.

2. An active BSE surveillance programme has been in place since 2001 and is carried out by approved facilities on all fallen livestock over 48 months old that die on farm. Scotland takes BSE samples from over 20,000 cattle over 48 months old each year.

3. Any animal with suspicion of clinical disease must be notified to APHA by either the vet or the farmer. If an APHA vet considers BSE a possible diagnosis the animal will be restricted, valued, killed and tested with compensation by Scottish Government to the owner.

Currently, there is no test to detect the disease in a live animal. BSE is confirmed by either histopathological examination of brain tissue or by the detection of the abnormal form of the prion protein via one of several methods, also requiring brain tissue.

4. Specified risk material (SRM) is those parts of cattle, sheep and goats that are most likely to pose a risk of infectivity if the animal which it comes from was infected with a transmissible spongiform encephalopathy (TSE) prion so it is essential that it is removed from both the human and animal food chains and destroyed. This is done in the slaughter house under the strict supervision of official vets working on behalf of Food Standards Scotland.

Scientific research indicates that TSEs cannot be transmitted via milk or milk products, even if the milk comes from a TSE-infected animal.

All the controls noted above are currently in place in Scotland and have been in place for many years prior to the current case. For this reason there is little additional action required as a result of this case.

### **Current Case outline**

This is a small herd of <Redacted> beef cattle in Aberdeenshire with a number of other species on the holding including sheep and companion animals. The case was a <Redacted> cow which was homebred, born on 05/04/2013. Unusually this animal has only eaten its mothers milk,

grass, silage and hay. APHA have confirmed that records support this and that food storage makes cross contamination highly unlikely. This animal had 2 offspring, the first a male born in 2017 was slaughtered for human consumption on 28/9/18, the other is a six month old female born in 2018 which is alive on the holding. Together with the surviving offspring there are 3 cohort animals alive on farm. Cohorts are animals born in the same herd in the same year which have been potentially exposed to the same feeding. No cohorts have left the farm.

The history of this herd is that it was moved in its entirety to the present holding from <Redacted> in December 2012. Meaning that this animal was in utero at the time of the move. Whilst the holding in <Redacted> has a history of BSE in the early 1990s vertical transmission (from mother to calf) is not considered possible and so this probably has no bearing on this case.

The suspect was well until 30/9/2018 when it showed signs of illness. The local vet diagnosed and treated it for hypomagnesaemia (grass staggers). She partially recovered but fell into a watercourse on 2/10/2018 and farmer decided to cull. However she had died by the time knackery arrived. As is normal for animals which die on farm over 48 months old a brain stem sample was taken by the fallen stock collector, and it tested positive on ELISA screening.

At this stage APHA were notified according to our standard protocol and the sample was sent to the APHA reference lab at Weybridge for confirmatory testing. Movement restrictions were placed on farm and preliminary epidemiological investigations commenced. For information we test approximately 20,000 fallen stock brain stem samples per year and this is the first positive result since 2008.

Classical BSE was confirmed by immunohistochemistry and Western Blot testing which can distinguish Classical from Atypical BSE. The written result was received by CVO Scotland late on the night of 17 October when an action plan for confirmation was agreed between animal health and welfare policy, Cabinet Secretary REC, Minister for RANE and Special Advisers.

### **Current Actions and Next Steps**

- APHA have made contact with the farm and will enact further controls by slaughtering a small number (4) cohort cattle associated with this case

at a time agreed with the farmer who is currently attending to urgent family business in England. This is likely to be week commencing 22 October. (NB These animal do not pose an immediate risk to other animals or public health and their slaughter is purely precautionary.)

- Prior to slaughter the animals will be valued by a valuer mutually appointed by the farmer and Scottish Government and full market value compensation will be paid.
- Movement restrictions of cattle have been placed on the farm but will be lifted after the additional animals have been slaughtered.
- APHA are carrying out further detailed epidemiological investigations on the farm to establish, if possible, the source of the disease. This will take 1-2 months to complete.
- The APHA reference laboratory will carry out a standard mouse bioassay to determine any further information on the case. This takes not less than 250 days to complete.
- A communication strategy has been put in place jointly between Communications Greener, ARE Comms, Animal Health and Welfare policy and Special advisers.

### **Regaining NR status**

Scotland achieved BSE Negligible Risk (NR) Status in May 2017. BSE NR status is based on submission of a dossier to the World Organisation of Animal Health (the OIE) that describes the country's BSE control regime in terms of implementation of the ban on feeding ruminant material to other ruminants; controls preventing Specified risk materials (SRM) into the food and feed chain; the implementation of a ban on older animals entering the food chain; safe disposal of animal by-products (ABPs) and an active surveillance programme for BSE.

The current case of classical BSE means that Scotland returns immediately to Controlled Risk status, our previous position and that of the rest of GB.

Under current OIE rules Scotland cannot apply for BSE Negligible Risk (NR) Status until 2024, 11 years after the date of birth of the current Classical BSE case. However other countries (France and the Republic of Ireland) are in the same position as Scotland in losing their BSE NR status shortly after gaining it and have raised the proportionality of the criteria used with the OIE.

Scotland's BSE NR dossier is attached separately, it contains additional detailed information on our BSE controls.

Nick Ambrose, AHWDiv. <Redacted>

18 October 2018