

CONFIDENTIAL

At. D. 21/19.



Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG

For information
Mr S Pivoy (1)

The Rt Hon John MacGregor OBE MP
Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
Whitehall Place
London
SW1A 2HH

PS/SSS

PS/RA

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PS/SBH

3rd April 1989

Mr Knighton

Mr Hilton

Mr Dietz (CAC)

Mr Hope (CSC)

Mr Massey

Mr Shung (EON)

Mr Stewart

Mr Davies (Cm)

Mr Robins (in)

Dear John,

REVIEW OF ANIMAL HEALTH LEGISLATION

Thank you for sending me a copy of your minute of 20 March to the Prime Minister.

This is to confirm that I am generally content with the arrangements you propose for this review. I agree that it will be necessary for the review to consider options for alternative means of funding compulsory slaughter schemes, even if we have ruled out the possibility of primary legislation in the next Session. Of course I accept that the possibility of distortion of competition with other Member States is an important consideration but I hope that it will not be used as an excuse to block all progress in this area. We should, in my view, give at least equal weight to the importance of avoiding the imposition of substantial contingent liabilities for compensation expenditure on our taxpayers.

I am glad to note that you intend that the report should be cleared with my officials before being circulated to MISC 138.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister and other members of MISC 138 and to Sir Robin Butler.

Yours Ever,
John

JOHN MAJOR

89/04.03/8.1