



SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE

Environment and Rural Affairs Department

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To: Agricultural related organisations, trades and veterinary interests
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Dear Sir/Madam

**ANIMAL DISEASE CONTROL: PROPOSALS FOR LEGISLATION IN SCOTLAND
PROTECTING SCOTLAND'S LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY AND WIDER RURAL
ECONOMY**

I am writing to invite comments on the enclosed consultation document "Animal Disease Control: Proposals for Legislation in Scotland". **Comments are sought by 23 May 2003** (for details see Chapter 7). All the legislative proposals set out in the consultation document, and the responses, will be subject to consideration and decisions by the incoming Administration after the Election on 1 May.

Veterinary advice suggests there is a credible risk of Foot and Mouth Disease, Swine Fever and/or Fowl Plague breaking out in Great Britain (GB) either now or in the future. These diseases, and some other virulent and fast spreading, internationally known, animal diseases mentioned in the consultation document, can have severe consequences for numerous sectors of the Scottish economy and society. The legislative proposals set out in the document also consider powers to eliminate Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSEs) in sheep and goats in the context of the National Scrapie Plan for GB. Also, powers in the event of a crisis emerging from evidence of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) occurring naturally in sheep or goats.

The consultation document places the above proposals in context; what types of animals are likely to be affected; examines disease risk both internationally and threatening Scotland; considers how specified diseases can be quickly controlled and prevented; considers the complexities of TSEs; the advancement of the National Scrapie Plan; and issues such as Human Rights, Sustainable Development and Equal Opportunities.

The Executive's weblink to the consultation document is
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/consultations/agriculture/adcp-00.asp>

Yours faithfully

Neil Ritchie
Animal Health and Welfare Division