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To all stakeholders on the attached list

18 August, 2003

Dear Consultee

**CONSULTATION ON THE DEFINITION OF "FARM ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES" TO MEET REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE NEW EU FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE (FMD) DIRECTIVE**

We are writing to seek your views on some issues which are part of the new EU Directive on Foot and Mouth Disease. This Directive was agreed at the June 2003 Agriculture Council and creates the framework for controlling future outbreaks of FMD in Member States.

The new Directive allows for special provisions for the conservation of "farm animal genetic resources" in the event of an outbreak of FMD, on premises that have been identified in advance as holding "a breeding nucleus of animals of susceptible species indispensable for the survival of the breed".

This places a responsibility on Member States to establish lists of holdings where a breeding nucleus of genetically valuable stock is held, to enable rapid identification of such holdings if there were to be an FMD outbreak. Subject to veterinary and epidemiological advice at the time, and provided that the highest levels of biosecurity are maintained to prevent the spread of disease, Scottish Ministers may allow the registered animals to benefit from special provisions, including emergency vaccination. Before drawing up these lists, we are consulting on the criteria to be used.

We are seeking your views, for the purposes of this Directive, on the definitions of:

- "farm animal genetic resources" and
- "breeding nucleus".

Detailed proposals are set out in the attached paper. Comments on the consultation should be sent by **7 November 2003** to:

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Unless specifically requested it will be assumed that any replies may be made publicly available.

Yours faithfully

Deborah King

## CONSULTATION ON THE DEFINITION OF “FARM ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES” TO MEET REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE NEW EU FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE (FMD) DIRECTIVE

### New EU Directive

1. The new EU FMD Directive (<http://www.europa.eu.int/>), consolidates and updates the existing measures to control foot-and-mouth disease in Member States. It was agreed at the 11/12 June 2003 Agriculture Council. The new Directive retains the current approach of eradicating FMD by culling susceptible animals on infected premises and known dangerous contacts (Article 10) but it also gives greater prominence to emergency vaccination, which now moves to the forefront of disease control strategies. The Directive also provides for preventive eradication (pre-emptive culling).
2. The Directive allows for emergency vaccination to be used on a protective basis, i.e. where animals live out their economic lives and enter the food chain in the normal way, or on a suppressive basis, i.e. where animals are compulsorily slaughtered and disposed of following vaccination. Government accepts that where emergency vaccination is used it should be protective (otherwise known as vaccinate-to-live) wherever possible. Protective vaccination would be followed by a programme of serological testing to establish absence of infection and to provide a basis for lifting the movement and trading restrictions in accordance with the provisions of the Directive.

### Farm Animal Genetic Resources – Article 15

3. In addition to setting out the basic disease control strategies, the new Directive also allows for special provisions for zoos, wildlife parks and for the conservation of “farm animal genetic resources” in the event of an outbreak, on premises that are identified in advance as holding a “breeding nucleus of animals of susceptible species indispensable for the survival of the breed” (Article 15). This consultation paper only concerns the conservation of farm animal genetic resources. Other arrangements are being made for identifying zoos and wildlife parks as required by the Directive and we will keep stakeholders informed.
4. In the event of an outbreak of FMD, the Directive requires Member States to ensure that all appropriate biosecurity measures are taken to protect such FMD susceptible animals from infection. Where an outbreak is confirmed in one of the premises referred to in paragraph 3, then a Member State has the option to derogate from Article 10(1)(a) which requires the culling of all susceptible animals on a holding where FMD has been confirmed. However, such derogations could only apply “provided that basic Community interests, and in particular the animal health status of other Member States, are not endangered and that all necessary measures are in place to prevent any risk of spreading FMD”. Such a decision would be made by Scottish Ministers, based on veterinary and epidemiological advice at the time of the outbreak. Any derogations would be subject to review by the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health at the earliest opportunity (Article 17). Other special provisions might include emergency vaccination.
5. If any premises defined under Article 15 are found to have been in epidemiological contact with a suspected or confirmed case of FMD, they will be subject to investigation, surveillance and movement controls (Article 19).

## Earlier Commitments

6. In July 2002, the Royal Society published its report on infectious diseases in livestock in response to the FMD outbreak of 2001 (<http://www.royalsoc.ac.uk/inquiry>). It recommended, and the Scottish Executive accepted, that arrangements should be drawn up for the prior registration of rare breed collections in order that such animals could be easily identified in the event of a disease outbreak. This would facilitate special provisions (including emergency vaccination) to be put in to place to protect genetically important groups of animals, based on epidemiological and veterinary advice at the time of the outbreak. This approach is in line with the new Directive.

## Definition and Registration

7. To meet the legal requirements of the new EU FMD Directive, we need to establish a definition of “farm animal genetic resources” in order to compile a list of holdings (Article 77) where breeding nuclei of genetically valuable stock are held. It is proposed that these definitions will be based on the UK Country Report on Animal Genetic Resources 2002 (<http://www.defra.gov.uk/science/publications>). The Report includes a comprehensive list of UK breeds, and identifies those which are considered to be of rare genetic status. In addition to numerical considerations, a number of other factors have been taken into account such as geographic distribution, current population trends, and genetic diversity.

8. We propose for the purposes of Articles 15 and 77 of the EU Directive to define those holdings “where animals are kept for.... purposes related to conservation.... of farm animal genetic resources” as those with registered pedigree stock of native breeds of FMD susceptible species listed as rare in the Report (Appendix 3 – Breed Status R and R\*). A copy of this list is attached as Annex A to this letter. We would anticipate that this list would be reviewed on a regular basis. **We would welcome your comments on this list.**

9. In addition, as required by the EU FMD Directive, special provisions would only apply to a “breeding nucleus of animals of susceptible species indispensable for the survival of the **breed**”<sup>1</sup>. We propose using the established definitions of a “breeding nucleus” for each species as defined by the Rare Breeds Survival Trust. These are as follows:

Cattle: 8 cows + bull (or AI)

Goats: 6 females + male

Pigs: 3 sows + boar (or AI)

Sheep: 16 ewes + ram

**Again, we would welcome your comments.**

10. To qualify for inclusion on the list to be established, as required under Article 77 of the Directive, a holding would have to contain a breeding nucleus of animals belonging to one of the breeds included in Annex A.

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<sup>1</sup> EU FMD Directive, Article 15, para 3.

## **Use of the Database**

11. A database of farm animal genetic resources will be created and made available to the State Veterinary Service for use in a future FMD outbreak and for contingency planning. However, registration on the database does not guarantee that a group of rare breed animals will automatically be exempt from the provisions of Article 10 of the EU Directive or that such animals will be vaccinated immediately an outbreak occurs. These decisions will be made by Scottish Ministers taking account of the scientific, veterinary and epidemiological advice at the time.

12. Premises holding farm animal genetic resources of FMD susceptible animals, as defined above, which have not been registered in advance would not be eligible for consideration under the provisions of Article 15.

13. We will publicise later this year how livestock keepers can check whether their stock will be included on the FMD animal genetic resources database.

## **Your Response**

All responses should be sent to:

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Please ensure your views arrive by 7 November 2003.

Breed General			Breed Status				Breed Utilisation		
SPECIES	BREED NAME	Registered breeding females, UK^^	BREED ORIGIN (N=Native; E=Exotic)	BREED STATUS IN UK (M=Mainstream; D=Distinctive; L=Locally Adapted; R=Rare)	IN SITU	EX SITU	ORGANISATION(S) or SCHEMES^	PRIMARY USE IN THE UK	INFORMATION SOURCE
Cattle	A. Angus (orig. popn.)	<150	N	R	BA, NM	S	RBST,TBMMS^	Beef, Terminal Sire	RBST, BS
Cattle	Beef Shorthorn	582 <sup>2</sup>	N	R	BA, NM, TBI	S	EN, RBST, TBMMS^	Beef suckler	RBST, BS
Cattle	Belted Galloway	1400 <sup>2</sup>	N	R,D,L	BA, NM, TBI	S	EN,RBST,RBI,TBMMS^	Hill beef suckler	RBST, BS
Cattle	Blue Albion	95	N	R*	BS			Beef suckler	BCMS, BS
Cattle	British White	1368 <sup>3</sup>	N	R	BA, NM, TBI	S	EN,RBST,RBI,TBMMS^	Beef suckler	RBST, BS
Cattle	Chillingham	17 <sup>4</sup>	N	R	RH	B <sup>1</sup>	BS,RBST	Feral	RBST, BS
Cattle	Gloucester	389 <sup>1</sup>	N	R	BA, NM, TBI	S	EN,RBST,TBMMS^	Dairy, Beef Suckler	RBST, BS
Cattle	Guernsey (Island)	1569	N	R*			BS	Dairy	BS
Cattle	Hereford (original )	350 <sup>5</sup>	N	R	BA, NM, TBI	S	EN,RBST,TBMMS^	Beef, Terminal sire	RBST, BS
Cattle	Irish Moiled	225 <sup>1</sup>	N	R	BA, NM, TBI	S	EN,RBST,TBMMS^	Dairy, Beef Suckler	RBST, BS
Cattle	Kerry	90 <sup>3,4</sup> ; 1000 <sup>2,3</sup>	E	R <sup>1</sup>	BA, NM	S	RBST,TBMMS^	Dairy, Beef suckler	RBST, BS
Cattle	Lincoln Red(original)	<150 <sup>9</sup>	N	R	BA, NM	S	RBST,TBMMS^	Beef suckler	RBST, BS
Cattle	Longhorn	1500 <sup>2</sup>	N	R	BA, NM, TBI	S	EN,RBST,TBMMS^	Beef suckler	RBST, BS
Cattle	Luing	1700	N	R*	Beef records			Hill beef suckler	BCMS, BS
Cattle	N.D.S.	25	N	R*	BA,TBI,records	S	EN,CLL,RBI	Dairy, hill suckler	RBI,CLL
Cattle	Red Poll	814 <sup>2</sup>	N	R	BA, NM, TBI	S	EN,RBST,RBI,TBMMS^	Dairy, beef suckler	RBST, BS
Cattle	Shetland	300 <sup>4</sup>	N	R	BA, NM, TBI	S	EN,RBST <sup>RBI</sup> TBMMS^	Dairy, Beef suckler	RBST, BS
Cattle	Shorthorn	3500	N	R*	TBI/records	S	EN,MDC	Dairy	RBI,CLL
Cattle	Sussex	2000	N	R, D	TBI,records	S	BS,EN,RBI	Lowland beef suckler	BCMS,RBI,BS
Cattle	Swona	10	N	R*				Feral	RBI,BS
Cattle	Vaynol	32 <sup>5</sup>	N	R	BA, NM, TBI	S, B <sup>1</sup>	RBST,TBI,TBMMS^	Conservation	RBST,BS
Cattle	White Galloway	150	N	R*				Upland beef suckler	BCMS
Cattle	White Park	525 <sup>2</sup>	N	R	BA, NM, TBI	S	EN,RBST,TBMMS^	Beef suckler	RBST, BS
Cattle	Whitebred	120	N	R*	TBI		EN,RBI	Crossing bull	BCMS,RBI,CLL,BS
Goat	Bagot	80 <sup>1</sup>	N	R	BA,TBI	S <sup>1</sup>	RBST,RBGS^	Leisure	RBI, RBST, BS
Goat	Golden Guernsey	700 <sup>2</sup>	N	R	BA	S, S <sup>1</sup>	RBST,RBI,RBGS^	Dairy	RBST, BS
Pigs	Berkshire	391 <sup>3</sup>	N	R	BA, NM	S, S <sup>1</sup>	BPA,RBST,TBMMS^	Speciality meat	BPA,RBST,RBI
Pigs	British Lop	162 <sup>7</sup>	N	R	BA, NM	S, S <sup>1</sup>	RBST,TBMMS^	Speciality meat	BS, RBST, RBI
Pigs	British Saddleback	414 <sup>5</sup>	N	R	BA, NM	S, S <sup>1</sup>	BPA,RBST,TBMMS^	Speciality meat	BPA,RBST, RBI
Pigs	Gloucestershire Old Spot	628 <sup>5</sup>	N	R	BA, NM	S, S <sup>1</sup>	BPA,RBST,TBMMS^	Speciality meat	BPA,RBST, RBI
Pigs	Large Black	377 <sup>5</sup>	N	R	BA, NM	S, S <sup>1</sup>	BPA,RBST,TBMMS^	Speciality meat	BPA,RBST, RBI
Pigs	Middle White	233 <sup>5</sup>	N	R	BA, NM	S, S <sup>1</sup>	BPA,RBST,TBMMS^	Speciality meat	BPA,RBST
Pigs	Oxford Sandy & Black	129	N	R*				Speciality meat	BS
Pigs	Tamworth	214 <sup>5</sup>	N	R	BA, NM	S, S <sup>1</sup>	BPA,RBST,TBMMS^	Speciality meat	BPA,RBST, RBI
Sheep	Badger Face Welsh	3500	N	R*	TBI,SG		BS,EN,NSP	Upland lamb	BS
Sheep	Balwen	2000 <sup>3</sup>	N	R	SG, BA, NM, TBI	S <sup>1</sup> , B	BS,RBST,RBGS^,NSP,TBMMS^	Upland Lamb	BS, RBS, RBI
Sheep	Boreray **	93	N	R,D,L	SG, BA, NM, TBI	S <sup>1</sup> , B	EN,RBST,RBGS^,NSP,NSTSG,TBMMS^	NST,Lamb	NSTSG,RBST,BS
Sheep	British Milkshopee	1232 <sup>*</sup>	N	R*D	BA,SG,TBI,records		CLL,EN,NSP,RBI,SAC	Crossbreeding/dairy	BS,RBI,CLL
Sheep	Cambridge	800 <sup>*</sup>	N	R*	SG,TBI,records		EN,NSP	Crossbreeding	BS
Sheep	Castlemilk Moorit	688	N	R,D	SG, BA, NM, TBI	S, S <sup>1</sup> , B	EN, NSP, RBST,RBGS^,TBMMS^	NST, Lamb	NSTSG, RBST, BS
Sheep	Cotswold	712 <sup>1</sup>	N	R	SG, BA, NM, TBI	S <sup>1</sup> , B	EN,NSP,RBST,RBGS^,TBMMS^	Lamb, Longwool	RBST, BS
Sheep	Derbyshire Gritstone	2250 <sup>*</sup>	N	R*,L	SG,TBI		EN,NSP	Hill lamb	BS,CLL
Sheep	Devon & Cornwall L'w	2750 <sup>*</sup>	N	R*	SG,TBI		EN,NSP	Lamb, Longwool	BS,CLL
Sheep	Dorset Down	2034 <sup>1</sup>	N	R	SG, BA, NM, TBI	S, S <sup>1</sup> , B	EN,NSP,RBST,RBGS^,TBMMS^	Terminal sire; Down	RBST, BS
Sheep	Dorset Horn	2386	N	R*D	SG,TBI,records		EN,NSP	Lamb	CLL
Sheep	Galway	150 <sup>2</sup>	E	R <sup>1</sup>	SG, BA, NM	S <sup>1</sup> , B	RBST,RBGS^,TBMMS^	Lamb; Longwool	RBST, BS
Sheep	Greyface Dartmoor	1685 <sup>1</sup>	N	R	SG, BA, NM, TBI	S, S <sup>1</sup> , B	EN,NSP,RBST,RBGS^,TBMMS^	Lamb, Longwool	RBST, BS
Sheep	Hebridean	2298 <sup>1</sup>	N	R,D,L	SG, BA, NM,TBI	S <sup>1</sup> , B	EN,NSP,NSTSG,RBST,RBGS^,TBMMS^	NST, Lamb	NSTSG, RBST, BS

Sheep	Hill Radnor	1539 <sup>1</sup>	N	R	SG, BA, NM, TBI	S <sup>1</sup> , B	EN,NSP,RBST,RBGS <sup>^</sup> ,TBMMS <sup>^</sup>	Hill lamb	RBST, BS
Sheep	Kerry Hill	2550 <sup>1</sup>	N	R	SG, BA, NM, TBI	S <sup>1</sup> , B	EN,NSP,RBST,RBGS <sup>^</sup> ,TBMMS <sup>^</sup>	Hill lamb	RBST, BS
Sheep	Leicester Longwool	420 <sup>1</sup>	N	R	SG, BA, NM, TBI	S, S <sup>1</sup> , B	EN,NSP,RBST,RBI,RBGS <sup>^</sup> ,TBMMS <sup>^</sup>	Lamb, Longwool	RBST, BS
Sheep	Lincoln Longwool	1345 <sup>1</sup>	N	R	SG, BA, NM, TBI	S <sup>1</sup> , B	EN,NSPRBST,RBGS <sup>^</sup> ,ST,TBMMS <sup>^</sup>	Lamb, Longwool	RBST, BS
Sheep	Lianwenog	1944 <sup>1</sup>	N	R	SG, BA, NM, TBI	S <sup>1</sup> , B	EN,NSP,RBST,RBGS <sup>^</sup> ,TBMMS <sup>^</sup>	Lamb; Shortwool	RBST, BS
Sheep	Lonk	3500	N	R*,L	SG,TBI	S	EN,NSP,RBI,ST	Hill lamb	CLL,ST
Sheep	Manx Loghtan	1253*	N	R	SG, BA, NM, TBI	S <sup>1</sup> , B	EN,NSP,NSTSG,RBST,RBGS <sup>^</sup> ,TBMMS <sup>^</sup>	NST, Lamb	RBST, NSTSG, BS
Sheep	Meatlinec	1000	N	R*	SG, records		NSP	Terminal sire	BS
Sheep	Norfolk Horn	1061*	N	R	SG, BA, NM, TBI	S, S <sup>1</sup> , B	EN, NSP, RBST, RBGS <sup>^</sup> , TBMMS <sup>^</sup>	Heath lamb	RBST, BS
Sheep	North Ronaldsay **	666*	N	R,D,L	SG, BA, NM, TBI	S <sup>1</sup> , B	EN,NSP, RBST,RBGS <sup>^</sup> ,TBMMS <sup>^</sup>	NST, Lamb	NSTSG, RBST, BS
Sheep	Oxford Down	1529 <sup>1</sup>	N	R	SG, BA, NM, TBI	S <sup>1</sup> , B	EN,NSP,RBST,RBGS <sup>^</sup> ,TBMMS <sup>^</sup>	Terminal sire; Down	RBST, BS
Sheep	Portland	1339*	N	R	SG, BA, NM, TBI	S <sup>1</sup> , B	EN,NSP,RBI,RBST,RBGS <sup>^</sup> ,ST,TBMMS <sup>^</sup>	Heath lamb	RBST, BS
Sheep	Ryeland	3000 <sup>3</sup>	N	R	SG, BA, NM, TBI	S <sup>1</sup> , B	EN,NSP,RBST,RBGS <sup>^</sup> ,TBMMS <sup>^</sup>	Terminal sire	RBST, BS
Sheep	Shetland (SSBG)	2500*	N	R*,D,L	SG,TBI,records		EN,NSP,NSTSG,RBGS <sup>^</sup> ,TBMMS <sup>^</sup>	Hill lamb	BS,CLL,NSTSG
Sheep	Shropshire	1453 <sup>3</sup>	N	R	SG, BA, NM, TBI	S <sup>1</sup> , B	EN,NSP,RBST,RBGS <sup>^</sup> , TBMMS <sup>^</sup>	Terminal sire, lamb; Down	RBST, BS
Sheep	Soay **	1107*	N	R	SG, BA, NM, TBI	S <sup>1</sup> , B	EN,NSP,NSTSG,RBST,RBGS <sup>^</sup> ,TBMMS <sup>^</sup>	NST,Lamb	RBST, NSTSG, BS
Sheep	Southdown	1600 <sup>4</sup>	N	R	SG, BA, NM, TBI	S <sup>1</sup> , B	NSP, RBST, RBGS <sup>^</sup> , TBMMS <sup>^</sup>	Terminal sire, lamb; Down	RBST, BS
Sheep	Teeswater	429 <sup>2</sup>	N	R	SG, BA, NM, TBI	S <sup>1</sup> , B	EN,NSP,RBST,RBGS <sup>^</sup> ,TBMMS <sup>^</sup>	Crossing sire, Longwool	RBST, BS
Sheep	Wensleydale	1624 <sup>2</sup>	N	R	SG, BA, NM, TBI	S <sup>1</sup> , B	EN,NSP,RBST,RBGS <sup>^</sup> ,TBMMS <sup>^</sup>	Crossing sire, Longwool	RBST, BS
Sheep	White Face Dartmoor	2094 <sup>4</sup>	N	R	SG, BA, NM	S <sup>1</sup> , B	NSP, RBST, RBGS <sup>^</sup> , TBMMS <sup>^</sup>	Lamb, Longwool	RBST, BS
Sheep	Whitefaced Woodland	656*	N	R	SG, BA, NM, TBI	S, S <sup>1</sup> , B	EN,NSP,RBI,RBST,RBGS,ST,TBMMS <sup>^</sup>	Hill lamb	RBST, RBI, BS
Sheep	Wiltshire Horn	3000 <sup>2</sup>	N	R	SG, BA, NM, TBI	S <sup>1</sup> , B	EN,NSP,RBST,RBGS <sup>^</sup> ,TBMMS <sup>^</sup>	Terminal sire, Lamb; Shortwool	RBST, BS

#### Population number/status/breed type footnotes

- 1 Flock/herd/stud books 1999 + 2000  
2 RBST survey of breed societies conducted for the NCC, 2002  
3 Breed Society Livestock Survey 2000  
4 MAFF FAnGR report, 1998  
5 flock/herd/stud book 1999  
6 Breed Society Survey 2001  
7 BPA Annual pig bloodline survey 2001  
8 BPA Annual pig bloodline survey 2002  
9 2002 compiled by RBST Council Member Andrew Sheppy (AJS)  
\* RBI Survey of Breeds for NCC  
£ numbers in UK only  
\$ numbers worldwide  
^^ Number of breeding females  
\*\* additional feral population  
R1 RBST Imported Category  
R\* Other numerically scarce breeds at risk as defined by RBI  
\*\* Additional feral population  
NST Northern Short Tailed

#### Source of Information/Organisations

- BPA British Pig Association  
BS Breed Society/Association/Group/Club  
CLL Countrywide Livestock Ltd  
EN English Nature  
MDC Milk Development Council  
MLC Meat and Livestock Commission  
NPS National Pony Society  
NSTSG Northern Short-tailed Sheep Group  
RBI Rare Breeds International  
RBST Rare Breeds Survival Trust  
SAC Scottish Agricultural College  
ST Sheep Trust

#### Conservation Programmes:

- B Blood stored within RBGS  
B1 Bloods held for population DNA analysis  
B2 Bloods currently being collected for population DNA Analysis  
BA Breed Analysis  
BSA Breed Structure Analysis  
NM Niche Marketing  
NSP National Scrapie Plan  
RBGS Rare Breeds Genotype Survey  
RH Reserve Herd  
S Semen stored  
S1 Semen currently being collected  
SG Scrapie Genotyping  
TBI Traditional Breeds Incentives  
TBMMS Traditional Breeds Meat Marketing Scheme

## **CONSULTATION on FARM ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES**

### **Consultees:**

**SAC**

**Roslin Institute**

**Aberdeen Angus Cattle Society**

**Belted Galloway Cattle Society**

**Shorthorn Society**

**Shetland Cattle Society**

**Luing Cattle Society**

**British White Cattle Society**

**Beef Shorthorn Society**

**Soay Sheep Society**

**North Ronaldsay Sheep Society**

**Hebridean Sheep Society**

**Castlemilk Moorit Sheep Society**

**Boreray Sheep Society**

**Shetland Sheep Society**

**University of Edinburgh Veterinary School**

**University of Glasgow Veterinary School**

**NFUScotland**