



Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs

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Sir Robert Goodwill MP
Chair, Environment, Food and
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21 March 2024

PROPOSED REMOVAL OF THE REQUIREMENT IN ASSIMILATED LEGISLATION TO SUBMIT AN ANNUAL REPORT TO PARLIAMENT ON TRANSMISSIBLE SPONGI- FORM ENCEPHALOPATHIES (TSEs) SURVEILLANCE

Dear Sir Robert,

I am writing to consult you on the proposed removal of a requirement in assimilated legislation to submit an annual report to Parliament on TSEs surveillance. The requirement is a consequence of changes made to EU legislation to make it operational at EU exit which, on reflection, seems superfluous, as the information is already published and updated monthly in gov.uk.

Assimilated Regulation 999/2001 lays down rules for the prevention, control and eradication of Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSEs) such as BSE in bovine animals and scrapie in sheep and goats. The regulation includes the requirement for an annual surveillance programme for TSEs based on active and passive surveillance. This is both a disease control measure and monitors the level of TSEs over time, thereby checking the continued effectiveness of the overall controls.

EU Regulation 999/2001 includes a requirement for EU Member States to submit an annual report to the European Commission with national data on TSEs surveillance to contribute to a consolidated EU-wide report. At EU exit this provision was amended to require an annual report to Parliament as part of the changes to make retained EU legislation operational.

Since 2007 the Animal and Plant Health Agency has published monthly TSE surveillance data in: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/active-tse-surveillance-statistics>. This data is publicly available and is more up-to-date than the data provided in the annual report to Parliament. Given this, I propose to remove the requirement for the annual report to reduce the administrative burden. This change would require an amendment to current secondary legislation and would be brought forward when parliamentary time allows. The removal of this requirement would not impact animal or public health, as TSEs surveillance will continue as before.

I would be grateful for your views by 26 April.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'K Douglas-Miller', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

LORD DOUGLAS-MILLER