15 November 2013

Dear Rob

Following my letter to you on the 18 April 2013 which in light of the horsemeat incident outlined the establishment of two expert advisory groups, and including the remit and membership of each group. Each group looked at different aspects of the horsemeat incident from a Scottish perspective.

The Ray Jones Expert Advisory Group which reported to me looked at the principles of traceability, labelling, assurance schemes and provenance and how best to meet consumer demands within the red meat industry as a whole. The Ray Jones report made 16 recommendations.

Professor Scudamore’s Expert Advisory Group which reported to Mr Matheson, Minister for Public Health, looked at the lessons to be learned from the horsemeat incident and the improvement of food and feed safety and standards in Scotland. The report has 69 recommendations.

I am now writing to inform you for your interests and that of the committee that the reports, recommendations and Scottish Government responses will be published today on the Scottish Government website.

The information on the Ray Jones report will be available at http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/farmingrural/Agriculture/Livestock/Meat

and the information on the Scudamore report will be available at http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Health/Healthy-Living/Food-Health/NewFoodBody

I hope you find this information of interest.

Best wishes

Richard Lochhead

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