



**Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food  
State Veterinary Service**

Room 302A, 1A Page Street, London, SW1P 4PQ

Telephone: 020 7904 6000 ext 6139

Direct line: 020 7904 6139

E-mail: [j.m.scudamore@ahvg.maff.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:j.m.scudamore@ahvg.maff.gsi.gov.uk)

Internet: <http://www.maff.gov.uk>

GTN: 3290 6139

FAX: 020 7904 6242

*Specs*

Your reference:

Our reference:

Chief Veterinary Officers

21 February 2001

Dear Colleague

**FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE IN GREAT BRITAIN**

I am writing to inform you that Foot and Mouth Disease type O was confirmed yesterday 20 February in pigs at an abattoir in Essex, South East England and also in cattle on a neighbouring farm in the same ownership as the abattoir. The origin has not yet been established. The virus strain is similar to that which occurred in outbreaks in Taiwan, Japan and Korea.

All susceptible livestock on the affected premises have been killed and disease control and eradication measures taken in accordance with European Community rules.

In addition movement restrictions have been applied to the premises which supplied the affected pigs to the slaughterhouse and to holdings within an 8km radius. No clinical disease is yet apparent on these supply premises.

The UK authorities have suspended issue of all export health certificates for susceptible species and their products and withdrawn certificates issued for consignments not yet exported.

We have notified OIE and will keep OIE informed of developments. You will also be able to obtain updated information from our website [www.maff.gov.uk](http://www.maff.gov.uk).

Yours sincerely

*J M Scudamore*  
**J M SCUDAMORE**  
 Chief Veterinary Officer



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Internet: <http://www.maff.gov.uk>

Our Ref: CVO 19

Dr B Van Goethem  
DG SANCO  
European Commission  
86 Rue de la Loi  
Brussels 1049  
Belgium

*21. February 2001*

Dear Dr van Goethem

**FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM (GREAT BRITAIN)**

I write to inform you that on 20 February 2001, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food confirmed two outbreaks of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD).

The first outbreak occurred in pigs in the lairage of an abattoir near Brentwood, Essex, the second in a bull on a farm in the neighbourhood. Suspicion of disease was first reported in pigs in the abattoir on 19 February 2001 and tissue samples from infected animals were submitted to the World Reference Laboratory (WRL), Institute for Animal Health, Pirbright, Surrey the same day. The presence of disease was confirmed on the basis of clinical signs and the results of ELISA tests carried out on the samples at the WRL.

The origin of the virus is presently unknown. The results of typing carried out by the WRL have shown the virus to be type O, "Pan Asian" strain.

In accordance with the measures foreseen in Council Directive 85/511/EEC, all animals on both premises have been destroyed and protection and surveillance zones with a minimum radius of 3-km and 10-km have been established around the outbreaks. Epidemiological investigations are underway to identify the source of the outbreaks and to trace any animals which may have been in contact with the affected livestock.

I will keep the Commission informed of future developments in the control of these outbreaks.

Yours sincerely

*J M Scudamore*

*Dr* J M Scudamore  
Chief Veterinary Officer