

FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE (FMD)
UK 2007 outbreak

CHRONOLOGY OF MAIN EVENTS AND LIST OF DECISIONS
ADOPTED BY THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Response to the outbreak in the UK

Situation as of 23 October 2007

EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DG Health and Consumer Protection
Unit D1: Animal Health and Standing Committees

This document summarises the basic information relating to the outbreak of foot and mouth disease (FMD) in the UK and related Community action. This focuses on the animal health aspects. A list of abbreviations can be found below.

For additional information, please refer to the Decisions in the [Official Journal](#), to the Commission’s [foot and mouth disease webpage](#), including associated [press releases](#). Several presentations mentioned in this chronology can be found there as well.

All Commission Decisions (CDs) can be accessed via the [EUR-Lex](#) webpages.

For more general animal health information, please refer to the Commission’s [Animal Health](#) webpages. For detailed information on the outbreaks of FMD in the UK please refer to the [DEFRA foot and mouth disease webpages](#).

List of abbreviations used:

CD	Commission Decision	NRL	National Reference Laboratory
CRL	Community Reference Laboratory for FMD in Pirbright	OIE	World Animal Health Organisation
CVO	Chief Veterinary Officer	OJ	Official Journal of the European Union
DEFRA	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in the UK	SCoFCAH	Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health
FMD	Foot and mouth disease	TRACES	TRAdE Control and Expert System
LVU	Local Veterinary Unit	UK	United Kingdom
MS	Member State		

Main events

Date	Main event	Action by the European Commission	Miscellaneous
<p style="text-align: center;">THU 02/08/07 Afternoon</p>	<p>A suspect case of vesicular disease in cattle is under investigation at a beef finishing premises near Guildford in Surrey, UK</p>		<p>The DEFRA press release on the suspect case of vesicular disease can be found here. A 1km temporary restriction zone was placed around the premises whilst investigations and testing were ongoing.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">FRI 03/08/07 Midday</p>	<p>DEFRA reports a suspicion of FMD to the European Commission.</p>		
<p style="text-align: center;">FRI 03/08/07 Evening</p>	<p>The UK CVO informs the Commission that the test results for FMD are positive and that an outbreak of FMD has officially been declared</p>		
		<p>The Commission informs all MS CVOs by sms of the confirmed outbreak of FMD in the UK.</p>	
	<p>DEFRA issues a press release on the findings and the FMD outbreak</p>		<p>The DEFRA press release on the FMD outbreak can be found here</p>

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FRI 03/08/07 Evening	DEFRA puts in place a 3km protection zone and a 10 km surveillance zone. The whole of England (including Scotland and Wales) is declared a restriction zone.		All measures required by Community law are being implemented by the UK authorities. Furthermore, in the UK no animal movements are allowed except under license, controls are in place on movement of animal carcasses, animal gatherings, shearing and dipping are restricted, and all farms must increase levels of biosecurity.
		The Commission issues a press release on the FMD outbreak in the UK.	
SAT 04/08/07		During the weekend of 4 and 5 August 2007 the Commission follows closely the developments in the UK and is in constant contact with the UK authorities.	
		Fax 1 to MS CVOs: information on the outbreak of FMD including copies of the press releases issued by DEFRA and the Commission.	
		Fax 2 to MS CVOs: further information on the outbreak of FMD received from the UK authorities.	
		The Commission sends data from the TRACES system to the MS CVOs and the MS TRACES contact points. The data contains statistical information on all intra-community trade consignments validated by the LVU in Surrey as from 01/01/2007.	

Date	Main event	Action by the European Commission	Miscellaneous
SAT 04/08/07 Evening	The UK CVO informs the Commission that after further testing the FMD strain is found to be a 01 BFS67 – like virus, isolated in the 1967 Foot and Mouth Disease outbreak in Great Britain.		The FMD strain 01 BFS67 is most similar to strains used in international diagnostic laboratories and in vaccine production, including at the Pirbright site shared by the Institute of Animal Health (IAH) and Merial Animal Health Ltd, a pharmaceutical company.
		The Commission informs the MS CVOs by sms of the UK findings.	
			DEFRA issues a press release on the typing of the virus.
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new single protection zone is created encompassing both the infected farm premises and the Pirbright site, with a single 10km radius Surveillance Zone. • an urgent independent review into biosecurity arrangements at the sites of the Institute for Animal Health and Merial in Pirbright has been commissioned. It is led by Professor Brian Spratt of Imperial University.

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SUN 05/08/07		During Sunday 5 August the Commission continues to follow closely the developments in the UK and is in constant contact with the UK authorities.	
SUN 05/08/07 Afternoon	During testing of cattle that were culled on Saturday, one animal was found to be positive for FMD		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to this finding DEFRA has put in place a new protection zone and has enlarged the surveillance zone in place. The DEFRA press release can be found here. • The cattle were part of the infected premises, but kept on a geographically separate site.
		Fax 3 to MS CVOs: information on the additional positive animal and the amendment to the restriction zones.	
MON 06/08/07			The UK sends an immediate notification to the OIE.
		Fax 4 to MS CVOs: for information, the draft Decision intended for adoption by the Commission today and information on the extraordinary SCoFCAH meeting planned for Wednesday 08/08/07 in the afternoon. The draft is also sent by email.	
		Fax 5 to MS CVOs: informing CVOs where further information can be found on the Commission's and DEFRA webpages. This information is also sent by email.	
			The UK CVO gives an update of the latest situation regarding the FMD outbreak.

Date	Main event	Action by the European Commission	Miscellaneous
		Fax 6 to MS CVOs: detailed information on the state of play received from the UK authorities.	
MON 06/08/07 17:00H	The Commission adopts CD 2007/552/EC laying down interim protection measures with regard to FMD in the UK		
		The Commission issues a press release on the adoption of CD 2007/552/EC	
MON 06/08/07 Evening		Fax 7 to MS CVOs: the text of the Decision in English adopted by the Commission at 17:00H today. All linguistic versions are sent by email.	
		Fax 8 to MS CVOs: the text of the Commission press release on the adoption of the Decision.	
	Further case of Foot and Mouth Disease suspected in Protection Zone		The DEFRA press release can be found here .
		The Commission informs the CVOs of the MSs by sms of this new suspected case.	
TUE 07/08/07		Fax 9 to MS CVOs: information on the new suspicion in the protection zone, from the DEFRA website.	
	CD 2007/552/EC is published in the OJ		
		Fax 10 to MS CVOs: Decision 2007/552/EC as published in the OJ. This information including a link to the OJ webpage is also sent by email.	

Date	Main event	Action by the European Commission	Miscellaneous
	The second outbreak in the protection zone is confirmed by laboratory testing		
TUE 07/08/07		Fax 11 to MS CVOs: confirmation of the second outbreak in the protection zone (see Fax 9).	
			DEFRA publishes on its website the amending Declaration following the confirmation of the second outbreak. The Declaration including a map can be found here .
		Fax 12 to MS CVOs: further information received from the UK authorities.	
		Fax 13 to MS CVOs: further information received from the UK authorities.	

Date	Main event	Action by the European Commission	Miscellaneous
	<p>The 'Initial Report of potential breaches to bio-security at the Pirbright Site 2007' is presented to DEFRA</p>		<p>The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) was asked by the Government to lead a multidisciplinary cross-government team with representatives from HSE, Defra, the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) and the Environment Agency (EA) supported by others to investigate any potential breaches of biosecurity at the IAH and Merial sites. They have prepared an initial report that can be accessed via the DEFRA website at the following web-page: http://www.defra.gov.uk/news/2007/070807b.htm</p>
<p>WED 08/08/07</p>		<p>Fax 14 to MS CVOs: the report received late yesterday evening from the UK authorities.</p>	

Date	Main event	Action by the European Commission	Miscellaneous
<p>WED 08/08/07 14:00 – 18:00H</p>	<p>Meeting of the SCoFCAH</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The UK gave an update of the situation. The presentation given by the UK authorities can be found here. • A draft Decision confirming the measures taken by the Commission in line with EU legislation (CD 2007/552/EC), with a number of technical modifications, was endorsed by the SCoFCAH. The Committee agreed that the whole of Great Britain should continue to be defined as a high risk zone, as requested by the UK authorities. • The Decision endorsed by the Standing Committee will be adopted by the Commission in the coming days by accelerated written procedure. The Decision will remain in force until 25 August and the Commission intends to call a further meeting of the Standing Committee on 23 August to review the evolution of the disease situation and the Decision. 	
<p>WED 08/08/07 Late afternoon</p>		<p>The Commission issues a press release on the results of the SCoFCAH meeting.</p>	
<p>THU 09/08/07</p>		<p>Fax 15 to MS CVOs: link to the presentation given by the UK authorities yesterday during the SCoFCAH meeting.</p>	<p>The UK authorities lift some of the national restriction measures after the SCoFCAH meeting, in particular relating to animals intended for slaughter. See the DEFRA news release.</p>
<p>THU 09/08/07</p>		<p>Fax 16 to MS CVOs: information on the marking of fresh meat for the national UK market (reference to Decision 2001/304/EC).</p>	

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		<p>Fax 17 to MS CVOs: The Commission press release on the results of the SCoFCAH meeting.</p>	
		<p>Fax 18 to MS CVOs: draft Decision endorsed by the SCoFCAH 8 August.</p>	
		<p>Fax 19 to MS CVOs: information from the UK CVO on the exemption of Northern Ireland for the restrictions on trade imposed on Great Britain.</p>	
	<p>The UK authorities confirmed today the presence of FMD virus in the second of the three cattle herds, which are part of the premises where the second outbreak was confirmed on 7 August.</p>		
		<p>Fax 20 to MS CVOs: confirmation of the positive test for FMD in a herd that is part of the premises in which the second outbreak was confirmed.</p>	
		<p>Fax 21 to MS CVOs: update of the situation received from the UK CVO.</p>	
	<p>The Commission adopts the Decision laying down protection measures with regard to FMD in the UK and repealing CD 2007/552/EC</p>		
<p>THU 09/08/07</p>		<p>Fax 22 to MS CVOs: adoption by the Commission of the Decision endorsed yesterday by SCoFCAH.</p>	

Date	Main event	Action by the European Commission	Miscellaneous
	The UK amends the protection and surveillance zones on account of the new positive finding of FMD		The amending Declaration can be found here .
		Fax 23 to MS CVOs: Declaration amending the protection and surveillance zones in the UK.	
THU 09/08/07 Evening			A Temporary Control Zone with a 3 km radius is put around one premise in Surrey outside of the existing Surveillance Zone. This is a precautionary measure following an inconclusive assessment of clinical symptoms. The information bulletin and Declaration relating to this event can be found on the DEFRA website.
FRI 10/08/07	CD 2007/554/EC is published in the OJ		
		Fax 24 to MS CVOs: Publication in the OJ of Decision 2007/554/EC and update on the FMD situation.	
		Fax 25 to MS CVOs: UK summary epidemiological report and information on the genetic relationship of the current outbreak strain with other O strains, indicating which vaccines could convey protective immunity to the current outbreak strain.	
		Fax 26 to MS CVOs: UK guidance to exporters and officials.	

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SAT 11/08/07			The Temporary Control Zone is lifted following negative test results for FMD. The revocation of the Declaration can be found on the DEFRA website.
MON 13/08/07		Fax 27 to MS CVOs: negative result of the suspicion in Surrey (outside the surveillance zone) and lifting of the Temporary Control Zone.	
		Fax 28 to MSs CVOs: Supplementary certificates for live animals, their products and products of animal origin coming from Northern Ireland	
TUE 14/08/07		Fax 29 to MSs CVOs: weekly progress report	
THU 16/08/07		Fax 30 to MSs CVOs UK epidemiological report - 03/08/2007	
TUE 21/08/2007		Fax 31 TO MSs CVOs: updated report FMD in Great-Britain in August 2007 (Progress report 2 – 20 August 2007).	
THU 23/08/07	Meeting of the SCoFCAH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The UK delegation gave an update on the FMD situation. • A draft Decision amending Decision 2007/554/EC was endorsed by the SCoFCAH (CD 2007/588/EC). The Committee agreed that the restrictions provided for in Decision 2007/554/EC should apply until 15 September 2007 and that the high and low risk area should be limited to the area of the surveillance zone established in Surrey. The measures for the control of FMD in the UK will be reviewed at the meeting of the SCoFCAH of 11/12 September 2007. 	
		Fax 32 to MSs CVOs: Draft Decision SANCO/10261/2007 Rev. 3 and the related press release .	

Date	Main event	Action by the European Commission	Miscellaneous
FRI 24/08/07	CD 2007/588/EC is adopted by the Commission		
		Fax 33 to MSs CVOs: information on adoption of a draft Decision (endorsed by the SCoFCAH yesterday) by the Commission today at 12.00. It will be notified this afternoon with number C(2007) 4058 and will be published tomorrow in the Official Journal, L220, with the number 2007/588/EC.	
	The UK lifts the measures in the two protection zones. The area in the protection zones is merged with the area in the surveillance zones. The measures in the surveillance zone continue to apply in the merged zone.		
MON 27/08/07	CD 2007/588/EC is published in the OJ		
		Fax 34 to MSs CVOs: Publication in the OJ of CD 2007/588/EC .	
TUE 28/08/07		Fax 35 to MSs CVOs: lifting of the measures in the two protection zones and further information on the veterinary inspections undertaken in the surveillance zone.	
FRI 31/08/07		Fax 36 to MSs CVOs: updated information on the veterinary inspections being carried out in the surveillance zone.	
MON 03/09/07		Fax 37 to MSs CVOs: an overview of the veterinary inspections carried out in the surveillance zone, as of 03 September.	

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<p>THU 06/09/07</p>		<p>Fax 38 to MSs CVOs: the clinical inspection and serological testing in the combined Surveillance Zone has been completed. 4.161 small ruminants on 242 holdings were sampled and all results are negative.</p>	
<p>FRI 07/09/07</p>			<p>The final reports investigating the August 2007 outbreak of FMD, and a Government statement in response, have been published.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HSE investigation of the Pirbright site. • Independent review by Professor Brian Spratt of Imperial College London. • Final epidemiological report. <p>Further information on these reports can also be found via the DEFRA website.</p>
		<p>Fax 39 to MSs CVOs: information received from the UK authorities on 3 reports commissioned by Defra into the origin of the recent outbreak of FMD in Surrey.</p>	
<p>SAT 08/09/07</p>	<p>The UK lifts the surveillance zone, exactly 30 days after preliminary disinfection of the second infected holding.</p>		<p>The UK declaration to this effect can be found here.</p>

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TUE 11/09/07	Meeting of the SCoFCAH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The UK delegation gave an update on the FMD situation. A draft Decision repealing Decision 2007/554/EC and leaving in place only restriction measures relating to movement of live animals, from the surveillance zone that was in place up to 8 September to other Member States, was endorsed by the SCoFCAH. 	
WED 12/09/07		Fax 40 to MSs CVOs: links to the websites where the reports on the FMD outbreak can be found.	
	The UK authorities informed the Commission of a new suspicion of FMD in Surrey, approximately 50 km north of the previous outbreaks		The UK issues a press release .
		The procedure for adoption by the Commission of the draft Decision, which was voted and agreed on yesterday during the SCoFCAH meeting, is suspended.	
		Fax 41 to MSs CVOs: prepared but not sent because of new suspicion	
	Meeting of the SCoFCAH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The UK delegation gave information on the new FMD suspicion. A draft Decision (CD 2007/608/EC) amending CD 2007/554/EC was endorsed by the SCoFCAH. 	
		Fax 42 to MSs CVOs: information on the new suspicion, including the UK press release .	
The UK authorities confirm the new outbreak of FMD in Surrey			

Date	Main event	Action by the European Commission	Miscellaneous
WED 12/09/07		Fax 43 to MSs CVOs: the UK authorities confirm the new outbreak of FMD in Surrey.	
			Because of a suspicion in Norfolk a temporary restriction zone is established
		Fax 44 to MSs CVOs: draft Decision endorsed by the SCFCAH (CD 2007/608/EC).	
THU 13/09/07	CD 2007/608/EC is adopted by the Commission		
			All results in Norfolk are negative. The temporary restriction zone is lifted
		Fax 45 to MSs CVOs: information on the new outbreak of FMD in the UK.	
		Fax 46 to MSs CVOs: further information on the outbreak and information on the TRACES data sent to Member States.	
		Fax 47 to MSs CVOs: CD 2007/608/EC adopted by the Commission.	
FRI 14/09/07	Forth outbreak confirmed on a farm adjacent to the outbreak detected on 12 September		The UK authorities extend the protection and surveillance zone following this forth outbreak
	CD 2007/608/EC is published in the OJ		
		Fax 48 to MSs CVOs: CD 2007/608/EC published in the OJ.	
		Fax 49 to MSs CVOs: confirmation forth outbreak.	

Date	Main event	Action by the European Commission	Miscellaneous
		Fax 50 to MSs CVOs: UK declaration extending the protection and surveillance zones.	
FRI 14/09/07		Fax 51 to MSs CVOs: further information on the forth outbreak and ongoing laboratory investigations.	
MON 17/09/07		Fax 52 to MSs CVOs: further detailed information on IP3 and IP4.	
TUE 18/09/07	The UK confirms a fifth outbreak (IP5), close to IP3 and IP4		
	Meeting of the SCoFCAH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The UK delegation gave information on the FMD situation and in particular on the new FMD confirmation. A draft Decision (CD 2007/663/EC) amending slightly CD 2007/554/EC was endorsed by the SCoFCAH. 	
THU 20/09/07		Fax 53 to MSs CVOs: further information on IP5 and specific data on cleansing and disinfection.	
		Fax 54 to MSs CVOs: further information from the UK.	
FRI 21/09/07		Fax 55 to MSs CVOs: further information from the UK. Still only 5 outbreaks. Surveillance is ongoing.	
	The UK confirms a sixth outbreak (IP6), close to IP3 and IP4	The Commission informs in the evening the Member State CVOs by sms about this sixth outbreak.	
MON 24/09/07		Fax 56 to MSs CVOs: confirmation of outbreak number six (IP6).	
		Fax 57 to MSs CVOs: further information on outbreak number six (IP6).	
		Fax 58 to MSs CVOs: The virus strain found in outbreak number 6 (IP6) is the same (FMD O1BFS-67) as the strain isolated in other premises.	

Date	Main event	Action by the European Commission	Miscellaneous
	The UK confirms a seventh outbreak (IP7), close to IP3 and IP4		
TUE 25/09/07		Fax 59 to MSs CVOs: confirmation of outbreak number seven (IP7).	
		Fax 60 to MSs CVOs: further information on outbreak number seven (IP7).	
WED 26/09/07		Fax 61 to MSs CVOs: information on the surveillance carried out within the protection and surveillance zones.	
FRI 28/09/07		Fax 62 to MSs CVOs: further information received from the UK authorities.	
SAT 30/09/07	The UK confirms an eighth outbreak (IP8), close to the other outbreaks in the Egham area.		
Mon 01/10/07		Fax 63 to MSs CVOs: UK press release on outbreak number eight.	
		Fax 64 to MSs CVOs: map showing the updated restriction zones. This map is sent by email as well.	
		Fax 65 to MSs CVOs: information on changes made to the FMD risk area.	
		Fax 66 to MSs CVOs: information on preventive culling underway in the protection zone.	

Date	Main event	Action by the European Commission	Miscellaneous
TUE/WED 02-03/10/07	Meeting of the SCoFCAH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The UK delegation gave an update on the FMD situation. A draft Decision (CD 2007/664/EC) amending CD 2007/554/EC was endorsed by the SCoFCAH. The draft Decision will allow fresh meat to be dispatched, under strict conditions, from regions in Great Britain situated +/- 200Km away from Surrey. 	
TUE 02/10/07		Fax 67 to MSs CVOs: the link to a presentation giving a Scottish perspective on the impact of the FMD outbreak.	
		Fax 68 to MSs CVOs: further information received from the UK authorities.	
WED 03/10/07		Fax 69 to MSs CVOs: further information received from the UK authorities.	
THU 04/10/07		Fax 70 to MSs CVOs: further information received from the UK authorities.	
FRI 05/10/07		Fax 71 to MSs CVOs: further information received from the UK authorities.	
		Fax 72 to MSs CVOs: the link to a report published on the DEFRA website, on ongoing epidemiological work into the FMD outbreak. It gives the situation at 12.00 hours on Sunday 30 September.	
MON 08/10/07		Fax 73 to MSs CVOs: the draft Decision (CD 2007/664/EC) amending CD 2007/554/EC that has been endorsed during the SCoFCAH meeting.	
		Fax 74 to MSs CVOs: further information received from the UK authorities.	
TUE 09/10/07		Fax 75 to MSs CVOs: map of FMD risk and low risk areas	
THU 11/10/07		Fax 76 to MSs CVOs: further information received from the UK authorities.	

Date	Main event	Action by the European Commission	Miscellaneous
FRI 12/10/07	CD 2007/663/EC and CD 2007/664/EC are adopted by the Commission		
		Fax 77 to MSs CVOs: adoption of Decisions 2007/663/EC and 2007/664/EC.	
SAT 13/10/07	CD 2007/663/EC and CD 2007/664/EC are published in the OJ		
MON 15/10/07		Fax 78 to MSs CVOs: publication of Decisions 2007/663/EC and 2007/664/EC.	
		Fax 79 to MSs CVOs: weekly progress report received from the UK authorities, as of 15 October 2007.	
TUE 16/10/07		Fax 80 to MSs CVOs: lifting of the Temporary Control Zone that was established on 15/10 in East Sussex. All laboratory results were negative.	
WED 17/10/07		Fax 81 to MSs CVOs: lifting from 00.01 hours on 17 October of the protection zone in Surrey.	
FRI 19/10/07	Meeting of the SCoFAH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The UK delegation gave an update on the FMD situation. A draft Decision (CD 2007/709/EC) amending CD 2007/554/EC was endorsed by the SCoFAH. 	
MON 22/10/07		Fax 82 to MSs CVOs: the draft Decision (CD 2007/709/EC) amending CD 2007/554/EC on protection measures against FMD in the UK as voted in the SCoFAH of 19 October 2007.	
		Fax 83 to MSs CVOs: the national measures taken in relation to zoning around the FMD outbreak in Surrey, amended. These measures do not affect the Community measures in place.	
MON 22/10/07		Fax 84 to MSs CVOs: correction to Fax No 82 in relation to the areas in Annex III.	

Date	Main event	Action by the European Commission	Miscellaneous
TUE 23/10/07		Fax 85 to MSs CVOs: the UK progress report on FMD developments. It gives the situation as of 22 October 2007.	
TUE 30/10/07		Fax 86 to MSs CVOs: the UK progress report on FMD developments. It gives the situation as of 29 October 2007.	
WED 31/10/07	CD 2007/709/EC is adopted by the Commission		
		Fax 87 to MSs CVOs: adoption of CD 2007/709/EC .	
THU 01/11/07	CD 2007/709/EC is published in the OJ		
MON 5/11/07		Fax 88 to MSs CVOs: information received from the UK authorities on FMD developments. No case of FMD was confirmed since the last infectious premises on 30 September 2007.	
MON 5/11/07		Fax 89 to MSs CVOs: the UK progress report on FMD developments. It gives the situation as of 5 November 2007.	
TUE/WED 6-7/11/07	Meeting of the SCoFCAH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The UK delegation gave an update on the FMD situation. • A draft Decision amending CD 2007/554/EC was endorsed by the SCoFCAH. 	
TUE 6/11/07		Fax 90 to MSs CVOs: the draft Decision that was unanimously supported by the Member States during the SCoFCAH meeting.	
FRI 9/11/07		Fax 91 to MSs CVOs: date of adoption foreseen for the draft Decision voted during the SCoFCAH meeting of 6/7 November 2007.	
FRI 9/11/07		Fax 92 to MSs CVOs: information received from the UK authorities on the surveillance work to be undertaken to demonstrate freedom from FMD.	