

# **THE TSE COMMUNITY REFERENCE LABORATORY EXPERT GROUP ON STRAINS:**

## **Progress report on actions from the meeting on 25th November, 2004, Rue Froissart.**

*Report drafted by Marion Simmons and John Spiropoulos using data and analysis supplied by VLA Weybridge, IAH (NPU) Edinburgh, AFSSA and INRA.*

### **Executive summary**

These investigations have been pursued by the transfer of materials from experimentally inoculated mice to the Veterinary Laboratories Agency and the Institute for Animal Health, for blind peer review. In addition, experimental caprine BSE was provided to AFSSA by the IAH for further Western immunoblotting of the suspect sample alongside appropriate controls.

Codes for mouse brain groups were held by a third party (Professor Bostock) so that all examinations at the VLA and IAH were blinded. Results were reported to Professor Bostock, who broke the codes and reported the outcome to the VLA for compilation of this report. The report is therefore compiled by the VLA on behalf of the Expert Group, and has been agreed with Professor Bruce (IAH).

A more comprehensive report of our findings has been provided to the French scientists who submitted the samples.

### **Conclusion**

Our findings, and interpretation of the western immunoblotting work done at AFSSA, support the conclusion that the French caprine isolate (CH636) is likely to contain the BSE strain.

Dr Marion M Simmons  
*On behalf of the EU CRL for TSE*

28<sup>th</sup> January 2005