

**ACM/513**

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE MICROBIOLOGICAL SAFETY OF FOOD  
PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE GOVERNMENT'S INTERIM RESPONSE TO THE REPORT OF  
THE BSE INQUIRY**

1. The Government is undertaking a public consultation on its interim response to the Report of the BSE Inquiry chaired by Lord Phillips of Worth Matravers. The ACMSF's comments have been invited.
2. Responsibility for advising Government on the food safety implications of BSE does not rest with the ACMSF. However, there are aspects of the Phillips Report and, consequently, the Government's interim response, which are of relevance to the Committee. The parts of the response document which are particularly relevant to the Committee are :-
  - Chapter 4 on science and Government : which covers the way in which Government obtains and uses scientific advice, including its relationship with the scientific advisory committees, and how research programmes are coordinated and managed;
  - Chapter 5 on openness : which considers how Government is endeavouring to enhance public trust in handling food safety and related issues through greater openness; and
  - Chapter 6 on risk : which sets out the steps Government is taking to improve the assessment and management of risk.
3. Members' comments are invited on the interim response document. The aim will then be to reflect these in a written submission on behalf of the ACMSF to the MAFF BSE Inquiry Liaison Unit.

**Secretariat**

**March 2001**

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. The Interim Response to the Report of the BSE Inquiry by HM Government in Consultation with the Devolved Administrations. CM 5049. The Stationery Office. February 2001.