



Mr Pm
C:/pps/bottomley

10 DOWNING STREET
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From the Principal Private Secretary

8 January 1990

NORTHERN IRELAND'S HIGH ANIMAL HEALTH STATUS

The Prime Minister has seen Mr. Bottomley's minute of 29 December and was grateful for the report given on animal health in Northern Ireland.

ANDREW TURNBULL

Andrew Elliott, Esq.,
Northern Ireland Office.

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Prime Minister
To note BT 511
CPU

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,

DUNDONALD HOUSE,
UPPER NEWTOWNARDS ROAD,
BELFAST,
BT4 3SB.

29 December 1989

Prime Minister

NORTHERN IRELAND'S HIGH ANIMAL HEALTH STATUS

1. You were talking with Ulster farmers and food processors about the high animal health status of Northern Ireland when we met at No 10 on 27 November. Informal advertising is helpful!
2. Across a wide spectrum of significant animal diseases NI has the highest level of freedom of any part of the UK.
 - NI led the British Isles in eradicating Brucellosis.
 - We have successfully eradicated Newcastle Disease from poultry and can sustain a non-vaccination policy.
 - The salmonella record in both egg laying and broiler flocks is substantially better than in GB.
 - So far BSE has only appeared at very low levels (³²~~28~~ cases).

The Northern Ireland record on other economically damaging animal diseases stands favourably in comparison with almost anywhere.

3. For Northern Ireland's export-orientated economy this is vital.

We are seeking to build on the excellent record to promote the clean, green and healthy image of NI in meeting today's food quality demands both at home and abroad. This effort will continue in the context of 1992 and the failure of other areas and other European countries to match the health status here. We work closely with MAFF on this.

4. We shall benefit by being known for high animal health.

Peter

PETER BOTTOMLEY

