



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

2 January 1981

Dear William,

Thank you for your letter of 15 December. I am sorry that I was not able to reply before Christmas.

I have made enquiries about the European Commission's proposal for the ban on the use of substances with a hormonal action and those having a thyrostatic action in domestic animals.

Agriculture Ministers discussed the Commission's proposal for a directive on 9 December. They did not conclude the subject. It was scheduled for a further meeting on 18 December, but in the event was not reached. There can be no question of decisions being taken in advance of the next Agriculture Council Meeting in January, and I hope that this will set your fears at rest.

I understand that the Ministry of Agriculture has written to the interests previously consulted to tell them that the proposals, in whatever form, could not be implemented on 1 January. A later date must now be left to emerge from the Agriculture Ministers' discussions. As you know, the active substance included in your product is one of those on which we intend to press for exemption.

I hope that you and any other manufacturers concerned will continue to keep up pressure directly on MAFF.

William Montagu, Esq.

Yours
Raymond

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