AS AT 28/5/12 [redacted]

Report on Trade Access Mission to The People's Republic of China 19-22 May 2012.

Persons present: The mission was led by The Rt Hon Jim Paice Minister of State for Agriculture and Food. Also present [redacted]

1. **Summary:**

Meetings by the MoS Jim Paice:

[Details to follow]

Pig meat: AQSIQ[1] had agreed that exports of pig meat from the UK to China could take place on 7 May 2012. Meetings with AQSIQ on 22 May were unfortunately cancelled on 21 May but the commencement of the trade was announced at an Ambassador's reception on 21 May and was reported in the press.

Two specific plant approvals are still awaited from CNCA[2]. Information about procedures needed to export pigs' feet is still awaited from CNCA.

It was not possible to discuss possible exports of pork from pigs born and bred in the Republic of Ireland (RoI); this is a particular issue for slaughterhouses in Northern Ireland which source many pigs from the RoI. AQSIQ has informed us before that the meat exported by the UK must be sourced from pigs born and bred in the UK.

[1] AQSIQ: General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of the People's Republic of China.

[2] CNCA: Certification and Accreditation Administration of the People's Republic of China.

2. Action points:

Action points: Please note that:

- **Priority ratings and target dates are my suggestions and can be reviewed.**
- **All communications with China must be routed through or seen by [redacted] before they are sent.**

No	Subject and paragraph number from detail.	Action	Priority	Target date	For
1	Pig meat	Arrange a meeting to discuss lessons learnt with AHVLA SSC Carlisle. Amend notes for guidance as necessary.	High	Mid June	[redacted] DCMES / AHVLA
2	Pig meat procedures	Arrange meeting with Industry	High	End of June	[redacted] DCMES
3	Pig meat	Arrange a meeting with FSA and industry and other administrations to inform plants of the importance of full compliance	High	By mid July	BPEX with FSA operations.
4	Pig meat	Keep other administrations, FSA and wider industry informed. Advise at the next UKECP meeting	High	For next UKECP meeting	DCMES, UKECP

3. Detail:

3.1 PIG MEAT EXPORTS TO CHINA

On 7 May 2012 AQSIQ had informed the UK that exports of pig meat from the UK to China could take place. An official meeting by the MoS with AQSIQ on 22 May to celebrate this was unfortunately cancelled on 21 May but the commencement of the trade was announced at an Ambassador's reception on 21 May and was reported in the press. The MoS did however discuss this with China MoA at a meeting on 21 May.

Meeting with AQSIQ officials to discuss procedures were also cancelled.

Exports are now in progress although there are indications that industry is not fully aware of the procedures that must be used (eg use of approved cold stores and certification by named Official Veterinarians (OVs). These misunderstandings caused the eventual cancellation of a small shipment for the purposes of the Ambassador's reception. This caused significant embarrassment.

Two specific plant approvals (a cold store in North Wales and an abattoir/cutting plant in Hull) are still awaited from CNCA. Information about procedures needed to export pigs' feet is still awaited from CNCA. Plants in Denmark and some in Spain are already exporting pig's feet.

Although AQSIQ has informed us that the meat exported by the UK must be sourced from pigs born and bred in the UK, [redacted] had travelled to China specifically to be able to discuss this with AQSIQ as this is a particular issue for slaughterhouses in Northern Ireland which source many pigs from the Republic of Ireland. The AQSIS meeting was however cancelled and this matter will therefore be raised by letter and possibly again at a subsequent visit. It is relevant to note that this issue is a matter of concern to some other EU member states (such as Belgium, France and Germany). To date, the responses from AQSIQ so far indicate that it is unlikely that this ruling will be changed at present.

Actions for paragraph 3.1 on export of pig meat to China:

No	Subject	Action	Priority	Timing	For
1	Lessons learnt	Arrange a meeting with AHVLA SSC Carlisle. Amend notes for guidance as necessary.	High	Mid June	[redacted] DCMES / AHVLA
2	Procedures	Arrange meeting with Industry	High	End of June	[redacted] DCMES
3	Inform plants of the critical	Arrange a meeting with	High	By mid July	BPEX with FSA

	importance of full compliance once exports start	FSA and industry and other administrations			operations.
4	Keep other administrations, FSA and wider industry informed	Advise at the next UKECP meeting	High	For next UKECP meeting	DCMES, UKECP

[redacted]

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