[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[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.

Pigs for breeding: Resumption of exports has been agreed and an export is already in progress. Representatives from three breeding companies were present in Beijing.

[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.

[redacted]

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 AG 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
5	Live pigs. Inform industry about procedures for approval of herds and premises for isolation.	Inform NPA and BPA	High	By 31/5/12	[redacted]

[redacted]

6	Live pigs NFG.	Revise NFG and seek comments	High	By 31/5/12	[redacted]
7	Pigs – testing for Brucella	Contact AHVLA and AQSIQ	High	By 31/5/12	[redacted]
8	Pigs: Contact AQSIQ re approval of premises for isolation and possible use of APP8 ELISA. also ask if there has been further consideration of area freedom from pH1N1.	Letter. To be translated	High	Mid June	[redacted]

[redacted]

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

3.3. LIVE PIGS FOR BREEDING:

There is considerable trade interest. Problems caused by non-negative test results for *Actinobacillus pleuropneumoniae* (APP), Brucella, transmissible gastroenteritis and porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome which caused AQSIQ to suspend permission for exports in December 2011 have been addressed and exports have resumed. This is still not without risk but it is considered that this can be managed. Due to the problems that have occurred, AQSIQ now wants Defra to recommend the herds involved for export.

Some importers still believe that the UK is banned from exporting. If this occurs, exporters should advise importers to check with AQSIQ.

The possibility of replacing the CFT for APP with an ELISA for APP Type 8 is still under investigation / evaluation and Defra needs to inform AQSIQ of the eventual outcome. It is suspected that other exporting countries are having similar problems with the APP CFT.

In March [redacted] agreed that we can use cELISA from now on for testing for Brucella (this is a great improvement for us as the SAT used before had very poor specificity). The export health certificate needs to be amended accordingly.

Defra also needs to write again to AQSIQ regarding using the same premises for the two separate 30 day periods of pre-isolation and pre-export quarantine. AQSIQ is not happy about this and still prefer that we should use the farm of origin for pre-isolation and other separate premises for pre-export quarantine

In response to AQSIQ's insistence, Defra now has to approve premises used for the two separate 30 day periods of pre-isolation and pre-export quarantine.

These and other matters mean that it is now time to consider again possible changes to the import protocol.

Actions for paragraph 3.3 on export of pigs for breeding to China:

No	Subject	Action	Priority	Timing	For
6	Inform industry about	Inform NPA	High	By 31/5/12	[redacted]

[redacted]

	procedures for approval of herds and premises for isolation.	and BPA			
7	Revise NFG accordingly	Revise and seek comments	High	By 31/5/12	[redacted]
8	Testing for Brucella	Contact AHVLA and AQSIQ	High	By 31/5/12	[redacted]
9	Contact AQSIQ re approval of premises for isolation and possible use of APP8 ELISA. also ask if there has been further consideration of area freedom from pH1N1.	Letter. To be translated	High	Mid June	[redacted]

[redacted]

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28 May 2012