



Department
for Environment
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Dear British Limousin Cattle Society,

I am writing to inform you of the outcome of the current official review of the British Limousin Cattle Society (BLCS) carried out by Defra. This review was instigated by complaints made to the Secretary of State in relation to animals, entered into the main section of the BLCS herd book, produced using artificial insemination with semen imported into the UK.

Defra carried out this official review under Articles 43 and 47 of Regulation (EU) 2016/1012, as substituted and amended by [The Animal Breeding \(Amendment\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2019](#), and [The Animals, Aquatic Animal Health, Invasive Alien Species, Plant Propagating Material and Seeds \(Amendment\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2020](#).

The review revealed and confirmed a number of areas of serious concern where, I believe, the complainants had good grounds for raising the issues they did.

However, after careful consideration, I have decided that no regulatory action should be taken, under the current zootechnical legal framework, against BLCS in relation to Jacot's descendants (of the first and subsequent generations) currently entered in the main section of the BLCS herd book. This is because there is an argument that this current legal framework might not provide a sufficiently firm basis for such regulatory action now.

The review uncovered no evidence that BLCS had sufficiently investigated whether the animals in question (i.e., Jacot's descendants) had met all relevant legal criteria for entries to be made in the main section of the BLCS herd book in relation to them.

I am very keen that there is strict compliance with all legislation, a breach of which might have adverse zootechnical consequences. For example, a breach of the requirements under health legislation relating to the import of bovine semen into the UK would be serious enough in itself. However, as a breach of law, this might also call into question the integrity of entries in a herd-book for animals derived from such semen.

I have instructed my officials to continue to closely monitor BLCS's compliance with all legislation relevant to zootechnical matters. I have also instructed them to carry out a full official review of all aspects of the Society in relation to such legislation in the near future.

Yours sincerely,

Victoria Prentis

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