



**The Institute for Health Research
Lancaster University
Standing Panel on FMD in North Cumbria**

Subject: Evidence in support of Paper from Lancaster University's '*The Health and Social Consequences of the 2001 FMD Epidemic*' study submitted to Carlisle City Council, Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee. (To be read with previously submitted documents)

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To: John Mallinson, Carlisle City Council, Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee Manager

Date: 18.12.04

Please note that the following are extracts drawn from study respondents' diaries and as such, are used to illustrate both the breadth and ongoing nature of some of the issues/problems that study respondents tell us that they are still dealing with, post FMD. **At this stage we do not envisage that you would be quoting from these extracts, verbatim.** As we have previously stated, these may only be viewed as 'interim findings', as we are in the process of final analysis. We expect to submit our final report to our funder the Department of Health by April 2004 and we will of course, keep you informed as to when we can let you have a copy.

During our meeting of the 17.12. 03, Josephine Baxter and Cathy Bailey, study researchers, illustrated some of the respondent issues/problems that had been bulleted in an evidence paper circulated to committee members, prior to our meeting. These are as follows:

- **For some, there is little sense of closure or resolution, following 2001, as many continue to live with anger and/or anxiety. (All groups)**

Extract from June 2003 diary of a livestock auctioneer:

It [the FMD epidemic] didn't make me a better person. Nor did I "discover myself". Instead it has left a hole in me which has been patched up but has not healed. It never will until I get over those nagging feelings of bitterness. We should never have had to do what we did.

Extracts from rural GP's diary:

March 2002

The only really definite F&M related incident involved Mr S, who is normally pretty surly and grim, presenting with fairly classic clinical depression on top of his heart disease, relationship problems and financial worries. He volunteered that his nursery business is failing and he wants to jack it in but can't until his son leaves home next year. It's impossible to know if F&M is really responsible. He gives the impression of someone who knows he simply can't win.

Really nasty anxiety problem in a farmer much affected by F&M. Anxiety which is likely to hospitalise him. Wife struggling to cope and marital melt-down not looking unlikely. Continuing and varied farming problems, now mostly unrelated to F&M have continued to pound him and his new inability to cope is leading to a progressive spiralling down into pathology.

June 2003

I saw a farmer on Monday who mentioned Foot and Mouth. The first time since before Christmas I think. An older man who lost his sheep – long blood-lines – and has restocked but just can't get any interest in them. He had a variety of symptoms which were probably mostly related to mild depression and anxiety. He had good insight into the problem and when I was able to reassure him that his physical health seemed good he was quite happy. I think he will retire though – one worries about quite what he'll do with his time. He was almost embarrassed to talk about his unhappiness. I'll see him again and see if there's anything we can do to help.

Although throughout 18 months of diary keeping these are the only entries specifically related to patients and FMD, it is interesting to note that there are still problems in June 2003.

- **Frustration with post-FMD livestock movement legislation which makes every day working life very difficult and at times almost impossible. Further, the 'science'/rationale behind the legislation has not been explained. (Groups 1 and 3)**

Extracts from September 2002 diary of a livestock haulier:

The only thing that spoiled the day is there was a new Trading Standards Official working for DEFRA and he was at Penrith. He was being a pain checking everybody in and out of the market. He was checking multi pick up and drop off licenses. There was one haulier who had two lots of sheep for next door neighbours in the same village and he made him take them in separate loads. The sheep had been mixed in the market all day.

Extract from February 2003 diary of agricultural contractor:

Now that the regulations and the market places have all changed and are still changing, it seems almost weekly! It seems that it is getting harder for smaller businesses in the rural community to survive. As it isn't easy for them to adapt to big changes overnight.

- **Serious erosion of trust, particularly of government agencies, some of this due to the chaotic handling of the disaster itself, but much is due**

to handling of the aftermath, and failure to recognise pain and sensitivities which remain long after. (All groups).

Extract from June 2003 diary of a livestock haulier:

I don't think it will happen but Defra, London, or where ever, will have to trust local knowledge and locals will have to trust Defra or whoever is in charge. The reason I don't think it will happen because after all that has happened over the last two years, all trust has gone.

- **Front line workers (ie those seconded to dealing with slaughter and disposal of animals) are still 'coming to terms' with what they had to do. They question whether they would be prepared to work in this way again. (Group 4)**

For a sense of everyday working practices, for front line workers please see the testimony of Christine Horn, who spoke at our 'Voices of Experience' Conference. We have sent the committee a full transcription of study respondents', conference testimonies.

The following extract illustrates the farcical nature of the paper work that front line workers were also dealing with:

Extract from February 2002 diary of a livestock auction credit controller who worked for MAFF/Defra during the 2001 Epidemic:

I am sure it is because of working for MAFF when the one thought I had in my mind was "You are thick" every time they changed the rules or made any new ones.

One example is that the information required for one form could be obtained by referring to the information contained in two others. Another example was a Farm Assessment form which had 3 columns and a Building Assessment form which also had three columns. Two of the three columns on each form contained identical information and the simplest way to gather it would have been to add a fourth column to the original form rather than to re-issue it with one column headed differently.

- **Small businesses (from rural tourism to craft industries) experiencing crippling effects of having to 'pay back' tax etc. that was 'frozen' in 2001. (Group 2)**

Extract from January 2003 diary of crafts person who opened rural crafts and coffee shop 2 months before the FMD epidemic broke out in Cumbria.

So many issues at the moment. I'm paying double the business rates. Monthly payments 2X 123 that's for the foot and mouth year. Because I didn't get my accounts in I didn't get the relief...Council say there was a specified time to get your accounts in, you didn't get them in, the time had elapsed now. ...It's got to the stage now where, well this is it really, I can't move. I've got no movement financially, and it's all, well it

all goes back to the initial loans I took on. Looking at the loans 342 a month and 141. So nearly 500 a month to the Bank and all those loans were taken on purely to keep afloat, to keep the doors open through that period and I'm suffering still now. And providing the business does go on it's still going to have an effect in the coming years. I've got to a point of no return it's like a form of gambling. You keep throwing this money in but there's nothing coming out. It's a vicious circle.

- For respondents living near landfill sites where animals were disposed of and burial sites such as Watchtree, there are ongoing health and environmental anxieties; although it is acknowledged that regular parish newsletters from sites such as Watchtree are very welcome. (Group 5)

Extracts from the diary of a respondent living near 'Flusco' landfill site.

These are long extracts that we would not normally reproduce or use in their entirety. However we feel 'the whole' gives a sense of the time scale of trying to have open communication with those who have 'expertise'. We have underlined issues that we feel may be of particular concern but suggest that it's useful to reflect on this story in its entirety.

Got a letter from Cumbria Waste Management last week they are holding a meeting in the Village Hall on the 12th April(2002) about the Tip. You had to book your place so I've done that.

She describes a meeting at which 18 local residents (would they have got a bigger turn-out if you didn't have to "book your place"?), 4 Lakeland/Cumbria Waste Management personnel. Including G Lafferty manager, 2 env officers, 1 planning officer, 1 C councillor.

(from the minutes) The site manager explains the meeting is to answer concerns and share info. Last meeting had been in Nov 2000. The minutes were circulated but "LWM were not going to over the minutes from the last meeting because of the time lapse between then and now."

In her diary report on the meeting the respondent comments on the fact that the managers of Flusco and Hespin Wood have swapped position.

These companies must think that us the public are not too quick but yes we do know why they do this, any awkward questions and the answer is always "I wasn't here then so I can't comment". Very convenient. They are going to arrange a site visit for us in six months time and we should be sent minutes when the meeting as we

.....Also Lakeland waste management has said that there is a grant of £21,000 for the Village because of the disposal site, but it has to be an environmental project or public amenities project. So my idea of everyone having an equal amount taken off their council tax at source was no good. I thought that it was fair and everyone would benefit. It probably wasn't possible to do anyway.

Summer 2002 ... according to her (farmer who had stock culled) there were diseased carcasses buried at Flusco The vet ... told K that they have been buried at Flusco. So that is something I will have to bring up for the next meeting with L W M. It was just supposed to be culled stock but was buried there. I don't suppose that they will ever tell me if there is diseased stock there.

Summer 2002 (after a complaint made by a neighbour) They said that they were dumping fish waste. He'd never smelt anything as bad as that before. They said that there would be a site meeting in September before the night's got dark but nothing has happened yet. There probably won't be one, the less times they have to talk to us the better they will like it.

Autumn 2002

5.30 Tuesday morning another horrendous smell from the tip, it is often smelling at that time of the morning for some reason. You would think that it had some sort of timer on it. Daft idea I know. But a lot of the time it is at a time when not many people are about. Don't suppose we will ever find out why. At the meeting we had with L W management they couldn't give an answer or didn't want to.

Week 33 autumn 2002

. This still no word on the site meeting that we were supposed to be having. The nights are too dark now will be the excuse. They want as little contact with the village as possible so when there are things to complain about or questions answered we may have forgotten about them by the time the meeting comes round.(see reference to minutes above) I'm not very trusting and I? with all the things that have gone on in past and the way they are evasive the village has really no reason to believe what we are told.

March 2003 It seems to have grown so quickly in the last two/three years. But there is still no sign of another meeting with Cumbria Waste Management. Isn't that a surprise?

Respondent's last diary summer 2003 As far as the tip goes there has never been another meeting or any contact. I hope that there is nothing leaking from it but we will never know if there is.

The minutes of the April 2002 meeting state: "GL suggested that the next meeting could be on site so that residents can tour the site and see what's happening, the residents agreed to this. GL will arrange a site visit for a date in September. After the site visit has taken place meetings will be held approximately every six months following a similar format to this evening."

(ie there should have been 3 meetings since April 2002, there have been none