

Scrutiny Office,  
Morier House,  
Halkett Place,  
St Helier. JE1 1DD

27th May 2008

**For the attention of The Scrutiny Panel with regard to the importation of semen**

Dear Sirs,

I am Francis Le Ruez's daughter, the world renowned cattle breeder, who died in 2002. I attended the World Jersey Cattle Conference when held in Jersey in 1979, at which my father presented a paper on breeding the Jersey in it's Island Home. I went on to attend the subsequent conferences in South Africa and New Zealand and was honoured to be invited to judge a class at the New Zealand Conference cattle show. After leaving Hautlieu, I did a Farm Secretarial course in Aylesbury and then returned to work on the farm for 12 years. I have represented the Society at the Royal Show and at the Foire de Paris where I was proud to promote the Island Jersey. I trust you will therefore appreciate that my points of view are well-informed and not based on sentiment.

It is significant to point out that in England in the 1980's, the use of semen from New Zealand was in great demand especially with the success that the Royal Herd enjoyed. However, the New Zealand Jersey is not nearly so prevalent in the United Kingdom and the American Jersey is flavour of the month. The Island cannot afford to lose its purity of breed status on a whim when, in time, the world will **need** to return to the Island to secure the true identity of the Jersey Cow. If the law has been changed there will be nowhere to go and the true characteristics of the cow could be lost for ever.

The Law that is being questioned at this time has not only protected the Island herd from any other cattle being brought into the Island but has protected it from the various diseases found in other parts of the world. With a dwindling cattle population in Jersey, we can ill-afford any potential threats, however small, coming into the Island herd.

However, a change in this Law, not only dispenses with this protection but will allow **any** semen to be imported. Due to the EU regulations, Jersey is not in a position to discriminate which semen can be imported whether it be dairy or beef, Holstein or Charolais. With Jersey Dairy no longer having the monopoly of dairy products, anyone wishing to start up a Holstein herd would be well within their rights to do so. The sole argument for importing semen is to increase milk

yields which a Holstein cross could address in one go - let alone an entire Holstein herd. There will be no legislation to prevent this happening. The Island Jersey could be wiped out completely.

At this stage, it is easy to say we would not let this happen but without proper legislation, not only could it happen but there would be nothing we could do to prevent it. Any change in the present Law will result in the total loss of control of the Island herd.

Unfortunately this is not a situation when we could try importation for a while and see what happens. A change in the law will destroy the guaranteed purity of breed - which even the Germans respected during the Occupation. It will threaten the disease-free status which the Island herd enjoys at present and could well ultimately destroy the Island Jersey that we know today. I am not being melodramatic - this is a fact that cannot be denied and a fact that has to be faced up to and acknowledged.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elisabeth Wood".

**Elisabeth Wood (Mrs)**