



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

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Dear Chris,

Thank you for your further email of 8 November to the former Secretary of State and myself about the Real Bread Campaign.

Regarding the consideration of a definition for wholegrain, the Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition will consider the timing of this work at the next scheduled horizon scan meeting in June 2024.

Defra is unable to confirm a date for the planned legislative changes to the Bread and Flour Regulations. We continue to work with the devolved administrations to align the timing of legislative changes across the UK as far as is possible.

Defra will be engaging with enforcement authorities as we develop the updated guidance on the Bread and Flour Regulations 1998. We hope this will help facilitate a consistent understanding around requirements across industry and enforcement. We want to ensure the final guidance captures the intent of regulations and does not have any adverse impact on consumer choice while still ensuring accurate consumer information. We will need to discuss our approach with our devolved colleagues before we look to circulate anything on this more widely to interested parties for their consideration.

The UK has high standards on the information provided on food labels. Existing food labelling rules, including ingredient listing, ensure that food is produced safely and labelled effectively. This enables consumers to make informed choices on the food they buy and consume. The legislation in this area aims to balance multiple factors including: safety, consumer choice, access to food information, burdens on businesses and associated costs to consumers, food chain resilience and the avoidance of waste. These were all considered in setting rules for loose and 'pre-packed for direct sale' foods, as well as for processing aids.

I do appreciate your thoughts on this matter and I thank you for your input. There is no timetable or set format for the review of guidance on the use of marketing terms such as fresh, pure and natural at this point.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you need further information.

Yours sincerely,

Rt Hon Mark Spencer MP