

**From: Office of Chris Skidmore <chris.skidmore.mp@parliament.uk**

**Date: 8 March 2021 at 10:43:03 GMT**

**To: [redacted by Sustain for data protection]**

**Subject: Re: Real Bread debate EDM 1523 (Case Ref: ZA20616)**

Dear [name redacted by Sustain for data protection]

Thank you for contacting me about bread labelling in England, I do appreciate the concerns you have raised with me.

The UK offers some of the best food produce in the world and I know that Ministers will always champion our food producers, including our independent bakeries.

I agree that consumers have a right to be informed about the products they buy. I know that current regulations require pre-packaged bread to display full labelling information including an ingredients list. The exemption from labelling for loaves sold loose is made for the purpose of reducing unnecessary regulatory burden on small businesses and bakeries, while ensuring the essential information is clear to the consumer.

These requirements, together with the guidance on terms such as 'traditional', 'farmhouse' and 'homemade' used by food businesses and trading standards officers, provide robust protection to consumers against misleading labelling.

On sourdough more specifically, I am not aware of any plans to introduce a legal definition, but the baking industry itself may consider agreeing a code of practice on how a product should be composed in order to be described as a UK sourdough bread.

That being said, I am pleased that Ministers now have the opportunity to carry out a review of food labelling now that the UK is no longer bound by EU rules to ensure information supports UK consumers' safe, healthy and sustainable food choices and also Great British food products.

I look forward to seeing the outcome of this review and will ensure your views on this issue are known to my colleagues in Government.

I do hope this can be of some use and reassurance to you. Thank you again for taking the time to contact me, and if there is ever anything else I can do for you as your local MP, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

With very best wishes,

Chris

The Rt Hon Chris Skidmore MP  
Member of Parliament for Kingswood

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