

YOUR MP (Find your MP by entering your postcode here
<https://www.parliament.uk/mps-lords-and-offices/mps/>)
House of Commons
Westminster
London SW1A 0AA

Date

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing with regard to the provision of halal meat in UK schools.

The National Secular Society¹ reported in 2018 that at least 17 local authorities across the country (a conservative estimate) are supplying non-stunned halal meat to schools – affecting 10,000s of pupils. The majority of these schools are **not** Islamic faith schools.

Lancashire Council voted in 2018 to end the supply of un-stunned halal meat to its schools,² however it agreed to provide “pre-stunned halal”.³ According to many Islamic authorities, including the Lancashire Council of Mosques, halal meat “must avoid all forms of stunning”.⁴ What evidence is available therefore that any halal meat is stunned? Do you agree that people have a legitimate right to object to un-stunned meat on moral animal welfare grounds?

Furthermore, whether stunned or un-stunned, halal slaughter involves the ‘slaughterman’ (who must be Muslim – employment considerations apply here) saying an Islamic blessing just prior to slaughter.

The Human Rights Act applies a positive obligation upon the UK government to protect the rights of parents to raise their children in accordance with their own religious and philosophical beliefs. Do you therefore agree that the imposition of halal meat in schools with non-Muslim pupils amounts to an infringement on the right of non-Muslim parents to raise their children in accordance with their own beliefs? The saying of an Islamic blessing prior to slaughter raises moral and theological difficulties for religious non-Muslim

1 <https://www.secularism.org.uk/news/2018/10/at-least-18-councils-giving-schools-non-stunned-meat-nss-reveals/>

2 <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-lancashire-45907431>

3 <https://www.lancashiretelegraph.co.uk/news/16992625.lancashire-county-council-votes-to-supply-only-pre-stunned-halal-meat/>

4 <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/no-stun-halal-meat-ban-lancashire-schools-pupils-muslim-islamophobic-a8445896.html>

parents. Do you agree that such parents are permitted to object to the provision of halal meat in their children's schools on these grounds?

I would be grateful finally if you could inform me of how many schools, Muslim and non-Muslim, are serving halal meat to its pupils across the UK? What is your view on this matter, and what is the policy of your party?

I look forward to your reply.

Yours faithfully,

Your name