

Sainsbury's



official partner of the Paralympic Games

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Dear Mr Galloway,

Thank you for your letter regarding the labelling of products from Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

We want to offer our customers the best quality products throughout the year. In the past we've received requests to boycott the products of various countries and suppliers.

We do understand that the situation in the Middle East is very sensitive for many people but, as a non-political organisation, we source our products according to their ability to meet our quality, safety and ethical standards.

We prefer to give our customers the opportunity to make their own decision in terms of the products they buy. We are not currently sourcing any products from the West Bank, but if we were to do so, we would label our products clearly and accurately so that our customers can make an informed choice when shopping.

We take our guidance on how to label the country of origin on products from the recommendations issued by DEFRA in December 2009. These guidelines give greater clarity on how to label produce from the occupied territories, i.e. *West Bank (Palestinian produce)* or *West Bank (Israeli settlements)*. Our commitment to clear labelling allows us to fulfil our promise to provide customers with honest information about the origins of their food.

We are founding members of the Ethical Trading Initiative (ETI) and require all our suppliers to meet the ETI Base Code for ethical sourcing. The Code covers nine key principles, including safe and hygienic working conditions, and payment of a fair wage.

We continue our commitment to ethical, responsible sourcing and hope you feel reassured of our intentions to provide our customers with honest and open information about the food they buy.

Yours sincerely,

Justin King

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