

Ms Jane Downes  
Veterinary and Technical Director  
Meat Hygiene Service  
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Reference: DTS 30/01

14 July 2005

Dear Jane,

### **Transport of 'Hot Meat' from licensed slaughterhouses**

As you may be aware, the issue of un-chilled or 'hot meat' has been discussed at several recent meetings of the Muslim Organisations Working Group, for which this Branch provides the Secretariat. During such discussions, it had been agreed that the group would write to the Meat Hygiene Service via the Secretariat, to clarify the Islamic position on this issue.

To that end, you will wish to note that a joint letter of 16 June 2005 from the Director General, and the Health & Management Advisor to the Director General, at the London Central Mosque Trust & The Islamic Cultural Centre (ICC), has been received by David Statham, who Chairs the Working Group.

The ICC letter has confirmed the collective opinion of the Muslim Organisations Working Group. It states that it is not an Islamic requirement for halal slaughtered animals to leave the slaughterhouse un-chilled. It further stresses that meat transported in un-refrigerated vehicles is at a far greater risk of arriving in a state that is not fit for human consumption. It should be noted that if meat is unfit for human consumption, it cannot be considered halal, irrespective of whether it derived from a halal slaughtered animal.

I would be grateful if this advice could be forwarded to all licensed premises, as well as including it as an item in the next MHS newsletter as it appears to be a common misconception that hot meat is an Islamic requirement. It would also be helpful to receive a progress note in due course in order to inform the Working Group.

Yours sincerely,



Shaheen Zar  
**Meat Fraud and Diversity Branch**  
**Enforcement Division**