

THE LONDON CENTRAL MOSQUE TRUST &
THE ISLAMIC CULTURAL CENTRE
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PRESS RELEASE

March 11th 2004

London Borough of Haringey's Halal meat eaters have been saved a possible stomach bug or worse through the vigilance of the Council's senior environmental Health Officer, Dr Yunes Teinaz.

Dr Teinaz discovered the consignment of meat during an inspection of a lorry parked in Turnpike Lane, Wood Green. The meat had been passed by government inspectors but still contained sides of meat unfit to eat. It was also unfit to be labelled "halal" as this meat must be wholesome.

Dr Teinaz says: "Of 90 sides of mutton in the lorry, I found that 24 and one whole lamb carcass were extremely poor. Three of the sides were emaciated and showed signs of oedema. Bits of wool were stuck to most of the carcasses. Nearly all the stamps, including those for specified risk material, were illegible. Only one of the sides had a clearly legible health mark."

Dr Teinaz asked an independent meat expert Paul Povey to inspect the meat for the council and he found three sides were clearly unfit and should have been picked up and rejected at the post-mortem stage and should not have been stamped by meat inspectors.

The meat was also inspected by a Meat Hygiene Service vet and by consultant Peter Rogers, working for its owner, M Najib and Sons Ltd of Foston, Derbyshire. Mr Rogers agreed to the consignment being voluntarily surrendered for destruction on the basis that it failed to meet the requirements of the Fresh Meat (Hygiene and Inspection) Regulations.

Dr Teinaz, who is an adviser to the Islamic Cultural Centre, alerted the Food Standards Agency to the poor condition of the meat and is calling for an official investigation as to how the meat was passed by the Meat Hygiene Service. "Butchers need to be vigilant not to buy meat in this condition it is not fit for human consumption and is not fit to be called Halal."

Dr Ahmed Al Dubayan, the Director General of the London Central Mosque Trust & The Islamic Cultural Centre said 'It is offensive and unacceptable to Muslims who may be eating food that is unfit for human consumption and forbidden by their religious beliefs'.

For more information please contact:

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