



## Press Release

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# THE DIRTY MEAT SCANDAL

Once again the safety of Halal food chain has been questioned after an undercover television investigation by last night's Channel 4 Dispatches the **Dirty Meat** Scandal programme found meat traders selling carcasses judged 'unfit for dogs' in a system designed to protect the public from diseased and unfit meat found flawed at every level.

DR Ahmed Al Dubayan, the Director General of the London Central Mosque Trust & the Islamic Cultural Centre, said:

"The Muslim community appears to be unaware of the widespread problems associated with Halal meat. Meat in this condition labelled as Halal is about the worst 'religious crime' I can think of. Dispatches highlighted a very disturbing fact about meat safety and Halal meat industry which has implications for all the Muslims of the world specially Muslims living in the UK, I would urge The Food Standard Agency (F S A) to introduce stringent controls in order to reassure the Muslim Community about the safety and authenticity of the meat products purchased in this Country."

Dr Yunes Teinaz, practising Chartered Environmental Health Practitioner, Health Advisor to the London Central Mosque Trust and Islamic Cultural Centre, one of the officials who has been investigating the trader's activities, and appeared in the programme, said: "illegal meat racketeers seem to have the upper hand. You try to do your best to stop unfit meat entering the food chain but you find many obstacles.

This is a growing problem. Environmental health officers in many local councils do not have the resources necessary to tackle the problems of illegal meat or food mis-described as Halal." Dr Shuja Shafi, Chair of the Health and Medical Committee of the Muslim Council of Britain said, "Sadly this news comes at a time when Government departments are making massive efforts to improving the health of the population by encouraging to eat healthy food and adopt healthy lifestyle."

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