



Welsh Liberal Democrats
Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru

MEDIA RELEASE/DATGANIAD I'R CYFRYNGAU

Release Date: 30 June 2004

Embargo: Immediate, Emily Walch 020 7219 8145

“PUTTING SMOKIES ON THE MENU” – ROGER WILLIAMS

‘Smokies’, a meat produce considered a delicacy amongst ethnic minorities in the UK, are currently produced illegally from sheep slaughtered in unregistered premises. The carcasses are not inspected and the conditions are unhygienic, leading to concerns about animal welfare and food safety. The treatment of the carcass with blowtorches -resulting in its golden colour and sought-after smokey taste- is a process which has not received UK or EU approval.

However there is an enormous demand for such products, mostly amongst ethnic populations in London, Bristol, Manchester and Birmingham, attracting high prices.

Although there are a number of outstanding health issues it is not impossible that a system could be devised for producing this product legally and ensuring health standards are met. The FSA is already undertaking research into this matter.

Roger Williams, MP said “If ‘smokies’ could be produced above board and to modern health requirements, it would be a huge boost to the Welsh farming economy. I will be pressing the Meat Promotion Wales and the Agri-Food Partnership to support the development work.”

Dr Teinaz said “I hope that the Government will tackle the problems of illegally slaughtered meat and non-Halal meat sold as Halal meat and will encourage Local Authorities to take appropriate enforcement actions”
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Note to the Editors

1. Roger Williams has put in questions to the Secretary of States for DEFRA, Health and the Treasury on the estimated value of the illegal smokies trade in Wales and import and export issues. He has also enquired into what measures were being taken to legalise the trade by adhering to UK and EU health standards.
2. DEFRA estimates so far point towards £10m a year boost for the sheep industry in the UK.
3. Dr. Yunes Teinaz is the Health Adviser to the London Islamic Cultural Centre and practising Senior Environmental Health Officer for Hackney Council.
4. According to our research, the main trade of smokies in London takes place in the main ethnic markets of Southwark, Brixton, Haringey and Lewisham.