



Richmond House
79 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2NS

Tel: 020 7210 3000

SofS47352

Dame Deirdre Hutton CBE
Chair
Food Standards Agency
Aviation House
125 Kingsway
London
WC2B 6NH

10 JAN 2008

Dear Deirdre

Thank you for your letter of 18 December 2007 setting out the Food Standards Agency's (FSA) advice on *trans* fats.

I would like to first congratulate the SACN and FSA for undertaking such a comprehensive review in a short space of time. I very much welcome the successful reduction of *trans* fats in manufactured foods and the cooperation and willingness by industry which helped to achieve this through working in close partnership.

I agree a shift of focus towards reducing saturated fat in the diet is likely to have a significant impact on the health of the population. I am keen that the Agency builds on this success and uses the voluntary approach with industry to make more progress on saturated fats whilst sustaining positive position on *trans* fats.

I very much value the strong working relationship between my Department and the FSA and thank you again for your rapid and well-considered advice.

Yours sincerely
Alan Johnson

ALAN JOHNSON