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FOOD STANDARDS AGENCY

Dr Yunes Teinaz
(Health & Management Advisor to the Director General)
The London Central Mosque Trust & The Islamic Cultural Centre
146 Park Road
London
NW8 7RG

Reference: DTS 03/01

12 August 2005

Dear Dr Teinaz,

Re; Alleged mis-description & illegal importation/ sale of the Holy Water of Zam Zam in the UK

I write further to my letter of 15 July 2005 to Dr Al Dubayan and yourself on this matter.

The Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia has also confirmed to us that commercial export of Zam Zam water from the Kingdom is not permitted.

You will wish to note that this matter has been discussed within the Agency, and that our Imported Foods Division will be in contact with Port Health Authorities to advise them to look out for imports of Zam Zam water, and to consider necessary enforcement action as appropriate.

We also intend to bring this issue to the attention of our Engagement with Asian Communities Sub-Group. Trading Standards Officers and Environmental Health Officers of the group who represent significant Asian (and, by extension, Muslim) communities will be ideally placed to look out for Zam Zam water being sold in their respective areas, and to take the required measures as necessary.

In addition, this Branch will shortly be in contact with several Local Authorities to take targetted enforcement action in relation to Zam Zam water, reminding them that the Agency is able to provide supplementary financial funding to support enforcement costs at local level, where this is deemed appropriate.

Last but not least, there is potentially a lot that the Muslim community can do to help itself in regard to this issue. As you will be aware, the idea of a proposed information and education campaign on food standards aimed specifically at the Muslim community has been raised previously, most recently at the last meeting of the Muslim Organisations Working Group held at Aviation House on 2 June 2005. If such

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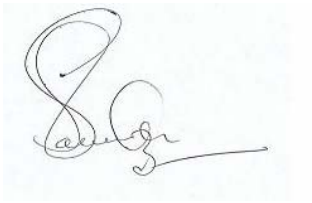
a campaign is to be taken forward, you may well wish to incorporate the key message to the Muslim community that Zam Zam water cannot be legally imported from Saudi Arabia, and that its retail sale in the UK is therefore fraudulent and illegal. You may wish to consider dissemination of this information to the wider community in the context of suitable consultation with imams, the placement of press notices in relevant media, and further use of the ICC website.

Yours sincerely,



Shaheen Zar
Meat Fraud and Diversity Branch
Enforcement Division