

[REDACTED]  
Chief Executive

Floors 6 and 7, Clive House  
70 Petty France  
London  
SW1H 9EX  
[REDACTED]

Tom Osborne  
Senior Coroner for Milton Keynes

[REDACTED]

Dear Mr Osborne,

Thank you for sending a copy of the Regulation 28 report under the Coroners (Investigations) Regulations 2013, following the inquest into the tragic death of Rohan Godhania (deceased 18 August 2020).

Thank you for agreeing an extension to the deadline, I apologise for the delay in responding.

I would firstly like to extend my deepest sympathies and those of the Food Standards Agency (FSA) to the family of Rohan.

The FSA is an independent government department responsible for protecting public health and consumers' wider interests in relation to food in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Food Standards Scotland (FSS) is an independent public body with responsibility for food policy in Scotland.

Responsibilities for food and feed safety and hygiene; nutrition and health claims, standards and labelling; and food compositional standards and labelling are devolved. This means the FSA has different policy responsibilities within England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

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The FSA has responsibility for food and feed safety and hygiene in England and Wales, food compositional standards and labelling policy in Northern Ireland and Wales, and nutritional health claims and nutritional labelling in Northern Ireland.

In England responsibility for food compositional standards and labelling policies rests with the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA).

Nutritional health claims and nutritional labelling responsibility rests with the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) in England and the Welsh Government in Wales.

We note your recommendation that *“Consideration should be given as to whether the labels should prominently display a warning about the potential risks for individuals with an undiagnosed urea cycle disorder and include clear and concise information on symptoms of this and the importance of seeking immediate medical advice”* and your concern that *“future deaths could occur unless action is taken”*.

The primary purpose of food labelling is to help consumers make safe and informed choices and to alert specific consumers of the potential for harm. This information is provided through general or sometimes more specific labelling.

The mandatory ‘back of pack’ nutrition labelling legislation already requires the amount of protein as well as sugar, fat and salt to be shown in the nutrition panel on a pre-packed product. The information provided is there to help consumers eat a balanced diet. It can also be useful for those wanting or needing to manage the level of protein they consume for example where a pre-diagnosed condition exists.

Allergen labelling is a good example of more specific food safety labelling for people with known food hypersensitivities. Product ingredients will be listed with any of the 14 major allergens present highlighted in bold allowing consumers to more easily identify and avoid foods/ingredients which may cause them harm.

Another example would be food and drinks that contain the sweetener aspartame which must display the warning “contains a source of phenylalanine” to help sufferers of Phenylketonuria (PKU) protect themselves.

However, information given on food labels can only be of value to individuals as a preventive measure for a particular condition if they know they have it and have been advised by a health professional on the action to take (e.g., what food to avoid).

As noted above, nutritional and broader health advice and whether and how it could be included on labelling is the responsibility of DHSC in England. We will share your report with DHSC so that they can more fully consider your recommendation for additional labelling.

It may also be worth you writing to them directly, copied to DEFRA as the department responsible for food compositional standards and labelling

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I would once again like to extend our deepest condolences to the family of Rohan Godhania.

Yours sincerely,



Chief Executive

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