

East Lothian Council

FOI Ref: 2018/176(13314)

... would like to enquire about the use by the local authority of meat coming from animals which were not stunned before slaughter. Such meat may be required for religious reasons by people of the Muslim or Jewish faiths.

In your area, which local authority establishments, including but not limited to schools, use meat from animals which have not been stunned before slaughter?

None

Which bodies certify the meat as coming from animals not stunned before slaughter? For example, the Halal Monitoring Committee provides this service.

Not applicable

Which of these establishments serve unstunned meat to those who do not belong to the Muslim or Jewish faiths?

Not applicable

What contracts does the council have for the supply of unstunned meat?

East Lothian Council only purchases meat from two Scotland Excel contracts who have commented as follows:

- Brakes:

"all meat and poultry products come from animals that are stunned before slaughter."

- Campbell's Prime Meat:

"It is Campbell's Prime Meat Ltd's intention that animals which are the source of CPM meat products should be properly and humanely stunned prior to slaughter. It is our understanding that all Non-Halal UK meat is stunned prior to slaughter. As noted below our understanding is all Halal Scottish Beef & Lamb is stunned prior to slaughter as well as Halal UK Poultry.

This topic has received much recent publicity and customer and the general public are showing an interest in this which they have not previously. We have therefore worked closely with our suppliers to achieve our objective.

There is also ongoing discussion within the abattoir sector regarding the precise nature of how stunning animals prior to slaughter fits in with halal rules. These rules are a complex area. An important issue is that it is not currently a legal requirement for an abattoir to label products which have been slaughtered in a halal method.

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Working with our suppliers we are very close to achieving our objectives above as follows:

Our understanding from DEFRA, and Scottish Government is that all Halal meat produced in Scotland is pre-stunned prior to slaughter. I do not know if this is a requirement in England.

Beef

All our Scottish and UK beef is not halal slaughtered, except for beef from one abattoir in Scotland when customers require Halal UK beef. Likewise our imported beef is not halal slaughtered unless we request it to be. We do stock halal beef for customers who request it.

Lamb

All our Scottish and UK lamb is not halal slaughtered. We have checked this with our current suppliers. However many reputable UK abattoirs do slaughter halal lamb as standard. It is currently the position that lamb imported from outwith the UK is often halal slaughtered. Customers not wishing halal lamb should order UK product.

Pork

Pork is by definition not halal.

Poultry

It is our understanding that all poultry from the UK is pre-stunned prior to slaughter, whether halal or not. We believe all the UK chicken we supply to have been pre-stunned prior to slaughter. Poultry from the UK supplied by Campbells may be halal. It is currently the position that poultry imported from outwith the UK is often halal slaughtered."