



I respectfully request the disclosure of the following information regarding Wigan Council's internal checks, policies, and recorded communications concerning the provision of Religiously Certified Meat Products (Halal and Kosher) within the school meal supply chain.

This request seeks documentary evidence of the Council's due diligence in ensuring that Religiously Certified Meat is successfully excluded from the standard catering provision in schools with a Christian ethos, unless a specific religious requirement has been identified.

1. Policy and Exclusion Procedures

a. The Council's overarching policy or formal guidance document that outlines the steps taken to ensure that all meat supplied to schools is sourced from suppliers whose default position is not to provide religiously certified meat (Halal and/or Kosher).

[Wigan Council do not have a policy or formal guidance document.](#)

b. Copies of, or extracts from, any documents setting out the Council's supply chain audit checks, segregation procedures, or quality assurance steps designed to actively prevent the inadvertent supply of Religiously Certified Meat into the general meal service of schools with a Roman Catholic, Church of England, Anglican, Methodist, or other traditionally Christian ethos.

[N/A](#)

[None.](#)

c. The recorded communications or documentation confirming the Council's default position on meat sourcing for these Christian-ethos schools (i.e., whether the Council assumes an 'opt-in' or 'opt-out' mechanism for the provision of religiously certified meat).

2. Consultation and Communication on Supply Transparency

I request records of documentation that demonstrate the Council's efforts to ensure transparent and informed communication regarding the actual supply of meat in school meals:

- a. Supplier Communication: Copies of the Council's contractual terms, written specifications, or explicit guidance issued to food/meat suppliers detailing the requirements for the exclusion of Religiously Certified Meat (Halal/Kosher) from the general supply, and the necessary guarantees for its absence OR detailing the requirements for its specific supply and segregation.
- b. Internal Council Review: Minutes or summaries of any internal Council meetings (e.g., Cabinet, Education, or Public Health departments) or recorded communications where the policy for avoiding or approving the supply of Religiously Certified Meat to Christian-ethos schools was discussed, reviewed, or approved.
- c. School Communication: Any standard communications (letters, circulars, emails) sent to Head Teachers, School Business Managers, or governing bodies of Christian-ethos schools (Roman Catholic, C of E, Anglican, Methodist) outlining the Council's policy on meat sourcing and the steps the school must take to confirm their supply of standard or Religiously Certified Produce.
- d. Parental Consultation/ Notification: Documentation showing what consultation, if any, was undertaken with parents/carers of pupils at the affected schools regarding the nature of the meat supplied (i.e., whether it is standard non-certified meat or Religiously Certified Meat), including notification documents and any associated feedback mechanisms.

Not included in the Council's contractual terms, written specs or guidance.

Attached is supplier confirmation that Halal products are not supplied to Wigan Council for their school meal contract.

None.

None.

None.

3. Compliance and Monitoring (Animal Welfare & Certification)

- a. Please provide any Council-held documentation that outlines the procedures for monitoring compliance with the requirement that meat qualifying for the religious slaughter exemption (slaughter without pre-stunning) is solely provided for consumption by those from the appropriate religious community.None.
- b. Any documentation held by the Council relating to instances (e.g., audits, complaints, or reports) where Religiously Certified Meat was discovered in the food supply of schools that had *not* specifically requested it, including details of the remedial action taken in the last five years (2020 to present).None as this has not occurred.



From: [REDACTED] [\[REDACTED\]dunstersfarm.com](mailto:[REDACTED]dunstersfarm.com)>
Sent: 06 January 2026 17:06
To: [REDACTED] [\[REDACTED\]ralphlivesey.co.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]ralphlivesey.co.uk)>
Cc: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]dunstersfarm.com](mailto:[REDACTED]dunstersfarm.com)>; [REDACTED] [\[REDACTED\]dunstersfarm.com](mailto:[REDACTED]dunstersfarm.com)>
Subject: RE: FOI information

I can confirm that Dunsters Farm does not actively supply or have supplied any Halal certified meat products to Local Kitchen or Wigan council sites.

As part of our supplier onboarding process, we diligently maintain a record of all our suppliers' food safety accreditations and certifications. These include, but are not limited to, BRC, Red Tractor, Food for Life, and Salsa ensuring that all records are kept up to date and reviewed regularly, especially as expiration dates for certifications approach.

We source products from only the most trusted and reputable suppliers holding the highest level of food safety and animal welfare practices and are audited as such by independent bodies such as Red Tractor and BRC supported by responsible sourcing practices and policies.

Please let me know if you need any further information or if there's anything else I can help with.

Regards



[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Mobile: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED] [\[REDACTED\]dunstersfarm.com](mailto:[REDACTED]dunstersfarm.com)
dunstersfarm.com


Registered Office : Dunsters Farm Limited, Waterfold Park, Bury, BL9 7BR
Company registration number: 786115

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