

PE1376/M

Dear Ms Peat

20th September 2011

REF: PPC/S4/11/4/9 – Note by the Clerk

I apologise for this late submission I have only just seen the above note to which I would like to add the following for consideration by the committee.

The notes give almost exclusive priority to the SFSA (FSA/COT) side of the argument which relies heavily on their contention that the body handles the methanol from aspartame in the same way as for that from natural fruits and vegetables, the FSA word is sacrosanct and everyone defers to them however, we have one question for the Public Petition Committee at this important juncture – **What if the SFSA is wrong?**

In 2009 After 27 years of relying on the above beliefs to “prove “ aspartame safety, the UKAAC challenged FSA with new evidence which suggested the ADI of aspartame is 35times higher than is safe for humans. In March of this year we backed this up with further evidence that the amount of methanol in the NOAEL of aspartame could kill a human (EFSA is currently considering this) to date SFSA /FSA /COT have not directly challenged, argued nor refuted our evidence. When asked FSA was unable to provide the science which substantiates their belief that the body handles methanol in the same way as for fruits and vegetables also, FSA have never investigated any possible long term health effects of the chronic ingestion of methanol in humans – there is almost no literature on this since we should not be eating it in ANY amounts anyway.

We have successfully argued our case with SFSA/FSA & COT to the point that they don't want to talk to us anymore and have declared our arguments a disagreement about the basic data used. This is ridiculous, we are not scientists and if they are not able to comprehensively scientifically prove to us it is safe to consume very small amounts of methanol on a daily basis, something must be terribly wrong.

We are aware of the complexities of this subject for the committee and the anathema of challenging the long held beliefs of the sacrosanct FSA but the fact that we are still here and fighting is some justification for our campaign. We believe this is now a medical problem and the wisdom of consuming free methanol every day of our lives over the last 29 years must be investigated by our doctors who are totally unaware we are doing this

In conclusion I would ask the committee to consider proposed action (2) under Rule15.6.2 and the petition be passed to the Health and sports committee for further consideration.

Yours Sincerely

James McDonald

(UKAAC)