



# **Lancashire County Council's policy on the supply of halal meat to schools - consultation 2018**

**Summary report – June 2018**

[www.lancashire.gov.uk](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk)

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# 1. Executive summary

Lancashire County Council's current policy is to provide both stunned and un-stunned halal meat to schools. We currently supply around twenty-seven Lancashire schools, where the governing body has the option to provide either stunned or un-stunned halal in their school meals. Un-stunned halal is provided in the provision of school meals for some of the 12,000 children in those schools. There is currently no demand for stunned halal meat from any school in Lancashire.

The consultation sought to understand people's views on the proposal to provide only stunned halal meat to schools. It asked respondents if they agree or disagree with the proposal and why, what impact they think the proposal will have and if they think anything regarding the proposal could be done differently.

This report summarises the response to the consultation concerning Lancashire County Council's policy on the supply of halal meat to schools.

For the consultation, online questionnaires could be accessed from [www.lancashire.gov.uk](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk).

The fieldwork ran for four weeks from 7 February 2018 until 7 March 2018. In total, 8,545 questionnaire responses were received.

## 1.1 Key findings

### 1.1.1 Demographic information

- Over half of respondents (53%) said that they were responding to the consultation as a Lancashire resident.
- A third of respondents (33%) said that they were responding to the consultation as a parent/carer of a Lancashire school pupil.
- Over two-fifths of respondents (45%) said they are Muslim, about a quarter of respondents (24%) said they are Christian and about one in six respondents (17%) said that they have no religion.
- Three-fifths of respondents (60%) said that they have children in their household.

### 1.1.2 Views on the proposal

- About two-thirds of respondents (65%) strongly disagree with the proposal and a third of respondents (33%) strongly agree with the proposal.
- Nine-tenths of Muslim respondents (90%) said that they disagree with the proposal.
- Of those respondents who strongly disagree with the proposal over two-fifths (44%) said that they are Muslim. Nearly two-fifths (38%) of respondents who strongly disagree with the proposal didn't answer the question about their religion or answered 'prefer not to say'.

- The most common reasons given for agreeing or disagreeing with the proposal were because of animal welfare reasons (40%) and because stunned slaughter is not halal (39%).
- Of the respondents who agree with the proposal and who stated their reasons why, over three-quarters (77%) said that they agree with the proposal for animal welfare reasons.
- The respondents who disagree with the proposal and who stated their reasons why can broadly be divided into two groups. One group can broadly be categorised as disagreeing with the proposal because they support un-stunned halal being supplied to schools in Lancashire (70%). The other group of respondents can broadly be categorised as disagreeing with the proposal because they don't think any halal meat should be supplied to schools in Lancashire (30%).
- When asked about the impact of the proposal the most common responses were children will stop eating meat in school (27%), adverse effect on our health/diet (20%), would lose confidence/trust in the system (20%), it will remove our choice (18%) and feel better knowing the animal hasn't suffered and was slaughtered according to British animal welfare standards (18%).
- Muslim respondents who are a parent/carer of a Lancashire school pupil most commonly said that the impact of the proposal on them would be that their children would stop eating meat at school (37%) and it would be inconvenient and more expensive (32%).

## 2. Introduction

Lancashire County Council's current policy is to provide both stunned and un-stunned halal meat to schools. We currently supply around twenty-seven Lancashire schools, where the governing body has the option to provide either stunned or un-stunned halal in their school meals. Un-stunned halal is provided in the provision of school meals for some of the 12,000 children in those schools. There is currently no demand for stunned halal meat from any school in Lancashire.

The consultation sought to understand people's views on the proposal to provide only stunned halal meat to schools. It asked respondents if they agree or disagree with the proposal and why, what impact they think the proposal will have and if they think anything regarding the proposal could be done differently.

## 3. Methodology

This report summarises the response to the consultation concerning Lancashire County Council's policy on the supply of halal meat to schools.

### 3.1 Fieldwork period and respondent numbers

The fieldwork ran for four weeks from 7 February 2018 until 7 March 2018 and the online consultation questionnaire could be accessed from [www.lancashire.gov.uk/haveyoursay](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/haveyoursay).

In total, 8,545 questionnaire responses were received; 7,840 online and 705 paper copies.

We received 47 other responses to the consultation – 10 letters and 37 emails. The majority were from members of the public (44). Three responses were also received from organisations, a response from the Board of Deputies of British Jews, a response from Lancashire Council of Mosques and a response from the National Secular Society.

## 3.2 Analysis of open questions

The questionnaire asked four open questions

- Why do you say this? (as a follow up question to, 'how strongly do you agree or disagree with the proposal to provide only stunned halal meat to schools?')
- What impact would this proposal have on you?
- What, if anything, do you think could be done differently in providing halal meat to schools?
- Is there anything else you would like to tell us?

Responses to the open questions have been classified against a coding frame to quantify the qualitative data. This coded and quantified data is presented in this report.

Coding is the process of combining the issues, themes and ideas in qualitative open responses into a set of codes. The codes are given meaningful names that relate to the issue, so that during close reading of responses it can be seen when similar issues relate to a similar code. As the analysis process continues the coding frame is added to and refined as new issues are raised by respondents. All responses to open questions are then coded against the coding frame, and can be subsequently analysed as quantitative data.

22,320 written responses were received across the consultation questionnaire's four open questions.

An external research company with coding experience completed this part of the data processing. The company was

Feedback Market Research Ltd  
Fieldhouse Farm  
Main St  
Sigglesthorne  
Hull  
HU11 5QA

## 3.3 Responses using the Lancashire Council of Mosques template

In addition to submitting a response to the consultation as an organisation, Lancashire Council of Mosques (LCM) promoted the consultation and encouraged local people to respond.

LCM promoted the consultation on <http://www.lancashiremosques.com> where a template was provided suggesting how people could respond to the consultation questions. We received about 1,300 online responses from people who chose to follow this template. It is difficult to put an exact figure on the number of

respondents who chose to respond in the way suggested by LCM, as although many respondents exactly copied the wording, many other respondents chose to phrase their comments in a slightly different way and/or include their own additional points.

We also received 705 paper copies of the consultation questionnaire from LCM. These paper copies had the LCM template responses pre-printed on them. Respondents signed or printed their name on their form to indicate this was how they wished to respond to the consultation. These printed questionnaires did not include the online questionnaire's 'about you' demographic questions.

The template suggested by LCM was as follows:

**How strongly do you agree or disagree with the proposal to provide only stunned halal meat to schools?**

Answer: Strongly disagree

**Why do you say this?**

Answer: Stunned meat is against the teachings of my faith. And it is also unhealthy.

**What impact would this have on you?**

Answer: We will stop eating meat  
It will make me lose confidence in the system  
It will have an adverse effect on my health and removes my choice

**What, if anything, do you think could be done differently in providing halal meat to school?**

Answer: Keep providing the unstunned meat.

**Is there anything else you would like to tell us?**

Answer: Why do you keep opening this issue.

The responses from respondents who chose to respond in the way suggested by LCM have been analysed and presented in this report in the same way as all other consultation responses.

### **3.4 Limitations**

The findings presented in this report are not representative of the views of the population of Lancashire and should only be taken to represent the views of people who were made aware of the consultation, and who had the opportunity and felt compelled to respond.

In charts or tables where responses do not add up to 100%, this is due to multiple responses or computer rounding.

The 705 paper copies of the consultation questionnaire submitted by Lancashire Council of Mosques didn't include responses to the questions in 'about you' section of consultation questionnaire. In the analysis included in this report it has been assumed that these 705 respondents were Muslim.

## **4. Main consultation findings**

### **4.1 Demographic information**

A full breakdown of the response to the questions asked in the 'about you' section of the consultation questionnaire is presented in appendix 1. However, a brief summary of the key information is described below.

Respondents were asked if they were responding to the consultation as a Lancashire resident and/or in any other capacity. For example, a parent/carer of a Lancashire pupil. Over half of respondents (53%) responded to the consultation as a Lancashire resident. A third of respondents (33%) responded to the consultation as a parent/carer of a Lancashire school pupil.

Nearly half of respondents (49%) said they are male and over two-fifths (44%) said they are female.

Nearly three-fifths of respondents (56%) said that they are aged 35-64 and a fifth of respondents (20%) said that they are aged 20-34.

Over two-fifths of respondents (45%) said they are Muslim, about a quarter of respondents (24%) said they are Christian and about one in six respondents (17%) said that they have no religion.

Three-fifths of respondents (60%) said that they have children in their household.

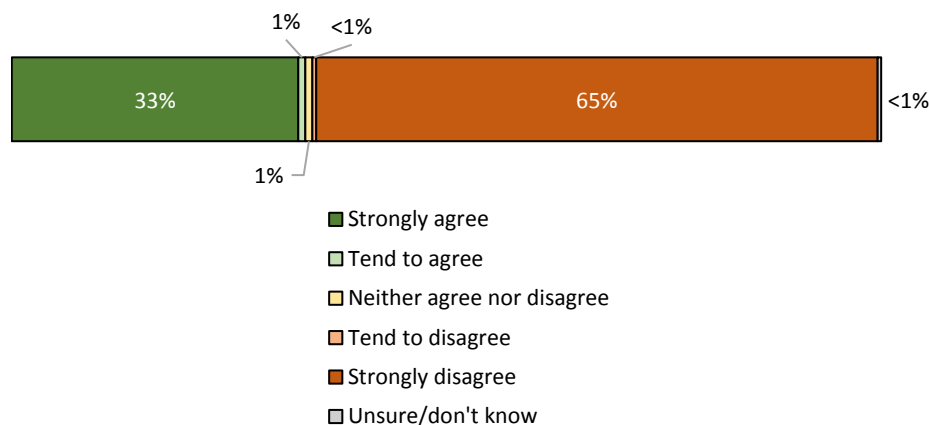
## 4.2 Agreeing or disagreeing with the proposal

First, respondents were presented with the following statement...

"The county council is considering its current policy for the supply of halal meat to schools. The council currently provides both stunned and un-stunned halal meat in a small number of schools, providing this service for school meals where there is the demand for it. The county council is considering the proposal to provide only stunned halal meat to schools."

Respondents were then asked how strongly they agree or disagree with the proposal to provide only stunned halal meat to schools. About two-thirds of respondents (65%) strongly disagree with the proposal and a third of respondents (33%) strongly agree with the proposal.

**Chart 1 - How strongly do you agree or disagree with the proposal to provide only stunned halal meat to schools?**



Base: all respondents (8,499)

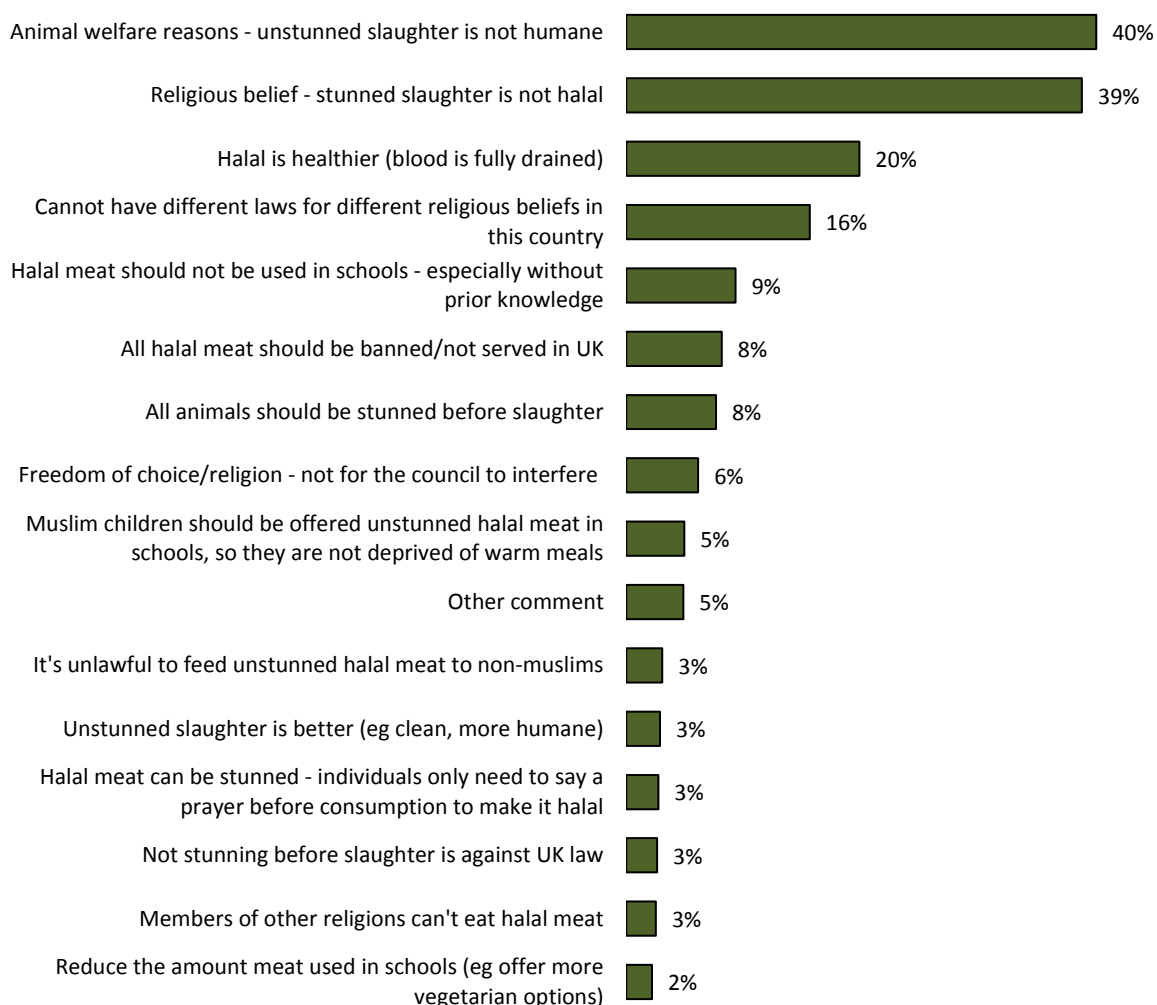
Nine-tenths of Muslim respondents (90%) said that they disagree with the proposal.

Of those respondents who strongly disagree with the proposal over two-fifths (44%) said that they are Muslim. Nearly two-fifths (38%) of respondents who strongly disagree with the proposal didn't answer the question about their religion or answered 'prefer not to say'.

Respondents were then asked why they agree or disagree with the proposal. Just over four-fifths of respondents (83%) answered this follow up question.

The most common responses to this question was for animal welfare reasons (40%) and because stunned slaughter is not halal (39%).

## Chart 2 - Why do you say this?



Base: all respondents (7,069)

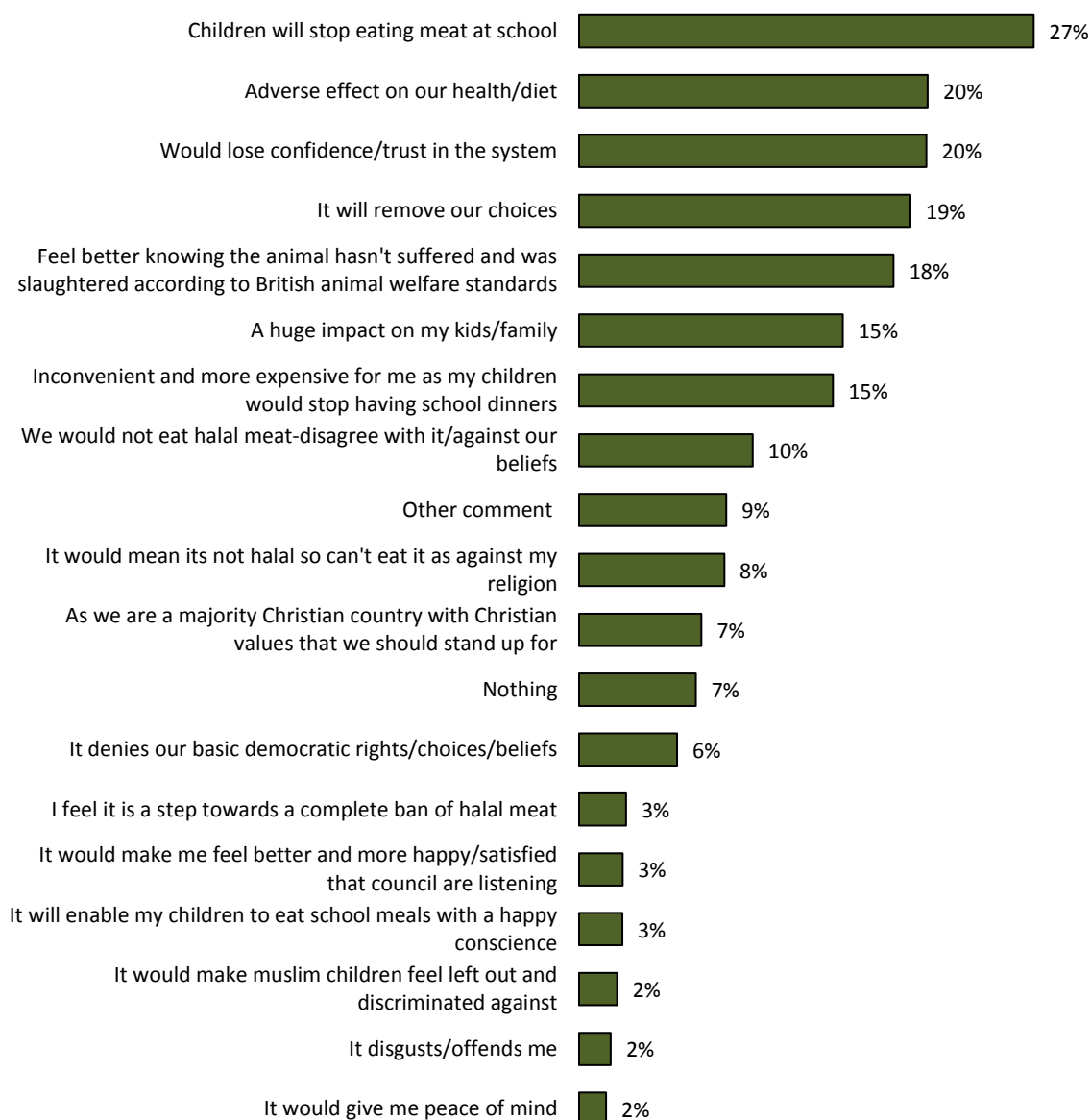
Of those respondents who agree with the proposal and who stated their reasons why, over three-quarters (77%) said that they agree with the proposal for animal welfare reasons.

The respondents who disagree with the proposal and who stated their reasons why can broadly be divided into two groups. One group can broadly be categorised as disagreeing with the proposal because they support un-stunned halal being supplied to schools in Lancashire (70%). The other group of respondents can broadly be categorised as disagreeing with the proposal because they don't think any halal meat should be supplied to schools in Lancashire (30%).

Respondents were then asked what impact this proposal would have on them.

The most common responses to this question were children will stop eating meat in school (27%), adverse effect on our health/diet (20%), would lose confidence/trust in the system (20%), it will remove our choice (18%) and feel better knowing the animal hasn't suffered and was slaughtered according to British animal welfare standards (18%).

**Chart 3 - What impact would this proposal have on you?**



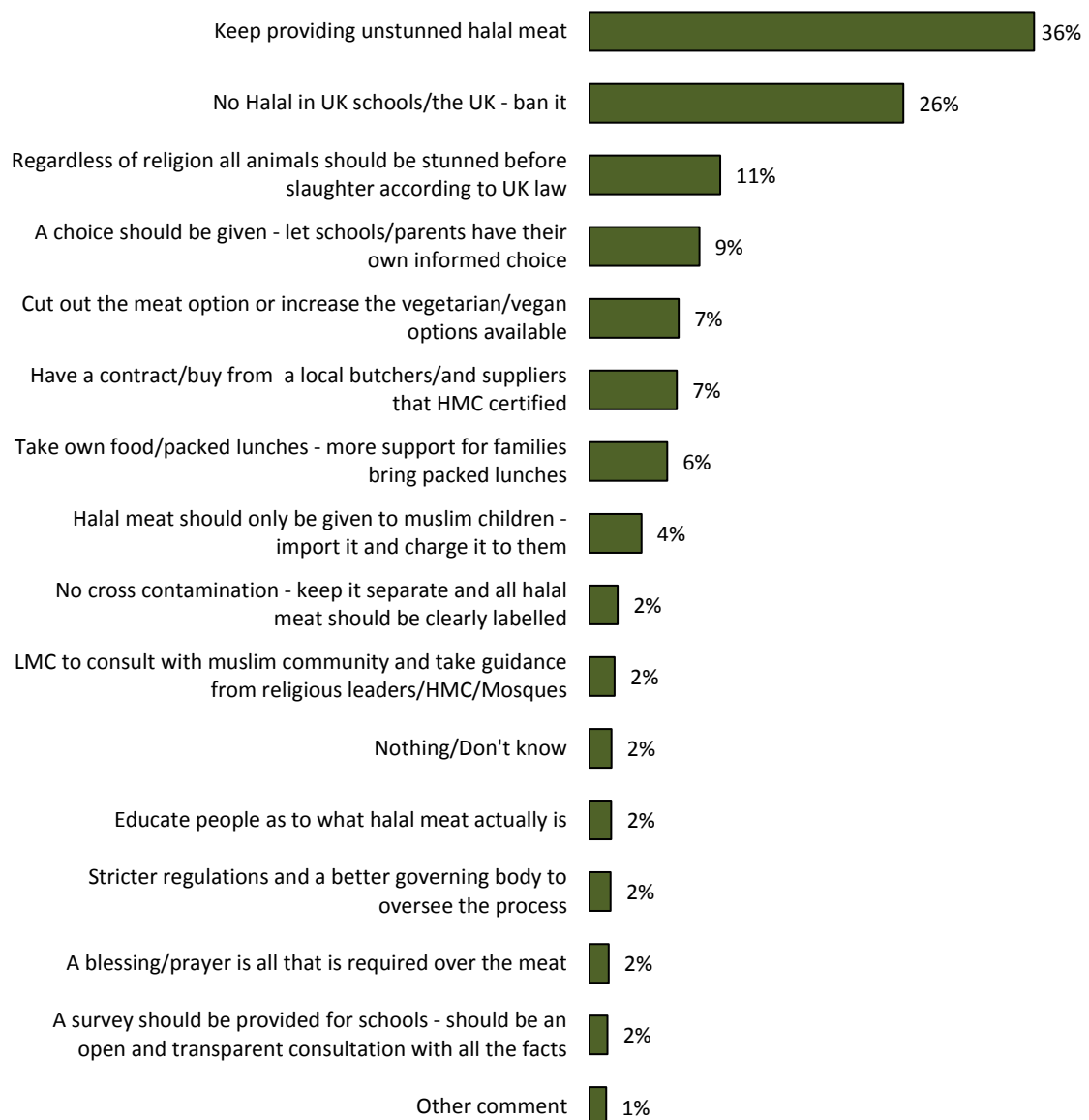
Base: all respondents (6,686)

Muslim respondents who are a parent/carer of a Lancashire school pupil most commonly said that the impact of the proposal on them would be that their children would stop eating meat at school (37%) and it would be inconvenient and more expensive (32%).

Respondents were then asked what, if anything, they thought could be done differently in providing halal meat to schools.

The most common responses to this question were keep providing un-stunned halal meat (36%) and no-halal in UK schools/the UK (26%).

**Chart 4 - What, if anything, do you think could be done differently in providing halal meat to schools?**

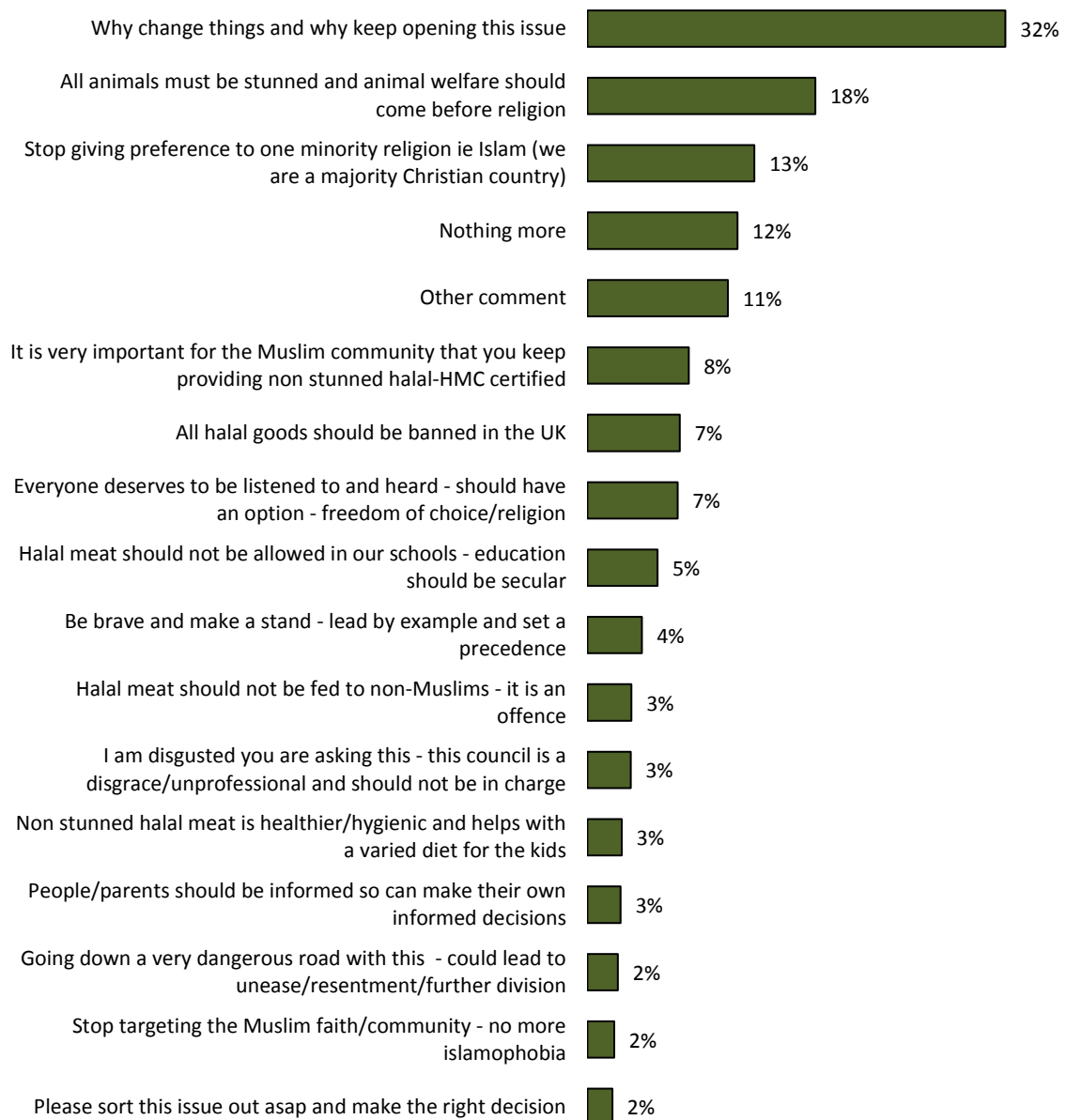


Base: all respondents (6,379)

Finally, respondents were asked if there was anything else they wanted to tell us.

The most common responses to this question were, why change things and keep opening this issue (32%) and all animals must be stunned and animal welfare should come before religion (18%).

**Chart 5 - Is there anything else you would like to tell us?**



Base: all respondents (4,850)

## 5. Other responses to the consultation

In total, we received 47 other responses to the consultation – 10 letters and 37 emails. The majority were from members of the public (44). Nearly all these responses from members of the public supported the proposal. Only one respondent opposed the proposal.

We also received three responses from organisations, a response from the Board of Deputies of British Jews, a response from Lancashire Council of Mosques and a response from the National Secular Society. The responses from the Board of Deputies of British Jews and Lancashire Council of Mosques opposed the proposal and the response from the National Secular Society supported the proposal.

All these responses can be found in full in Appendix 2.

## Appendix 1: Demographic Breakdown

**Table 1 - Are you responding to this proposal as...?**

	<b>%</b>	<b>No.</b>
A Lancashire resident	53%	4,076
A parent/carers of a Lancashire school pupil	33%	2,497
Other	22%	1,657
A member of a voluntary, community or faith organisation	6%	467
A pupil at a Lancashire school	5%	353
A local business owner	4%	296
An employee of Lancashire County Council	3%	196
A member of staff at a Lancashire school	2%	187
A representative of a voluntary, community or faith organisation	2%	159
A school governor at a Lancashire school	1%	97
A representative of a private sector company/organisation	1%	87
An elected member of a Lancashire district council	0%	26
An elected member of a parish or town council in Lancashire	0%	18
An elected member of Lancashire County Council	0%	16
<b>Total</b>		<b>7,660</b>

**Table 2 - Are you...?**

	<b>%</b>	<b>No.</b>
Female	44%	2,323
Male	49%	2,614
Prefer not to say	7%	353
<b>Total</b>		<b>5,290</b>

**Table 3 - What was your age on your last birthday?**

	%	No.
Under 16	3%	145
16-19	2%	132
20-34	20%	1,074
35-64	56%	2,985
65-74	9%	496
75+	1%	71
Prefer not to say	8%	415
<b>Total</b>		<b>5,318</b>

**Table 4 - Which best describes your ethnic background?**

	%	No.
White	43%	2,287
Asian or Asian British	34%	1,806
Black or Black British	1%	33
Mixed	2%	113
Other	2%	114
Prefer not to say	18%	954
<b>Total</b>		<b>5,307</b>

**Table 5 - What is your religion?**

	%	No.
Muslim	45%	2,707
Christian	24%	1,448
No religion	17%	1,010
Buddhist	<1%	21
Jewish	<1%	15
Sikh	<1%	13
Hindu	<1%	8
Any other religion	1%	49
Prefer not to say	12%	744
<b>Total</b>		<b>6,015</b>

**Table 6 - Are there any children or young people in your household aged under 20?**

	<b>%</b>	<b>No.</b>
No, but expecting	3%	149
Yes, aged under 5	19%	1,032
Yes, aged 5-8	22%	1,188
Yes, aged 9-11	20%	1,056
Yes, aged 12-16	22%	1,157
Yes, aged 17-19	11%	566
No children aged under 20	24%	1,270
Prefer not to say	16%	846
<b>Total</b>		<b>5,305</b>

## Appendix 2: Other responses to the proposal

These responses are presented in the order they were received

### Response 1

[REDACTED]  
28.12.2017  
To Cllr Geoff Driver

I am writing to congratulate you on your stance regarding halal meat.

It is quite wrong and cruel not to stun animals prior to slaughter, and schools and other institutions here in G. Britain should always purchase meat killed in this way.

As a retired farmers wife it maddens me that we, when farming, tried hard to make enough money for the family (never easy on a 250 acre farm) but at the same time we took great care not to cause

stock stress. They deserve the kindest possible end in life and that is to be stunned first.



It benefits all, as meat killed when an animal is stressed is tougher!

Well done you making a stand.

Yours sincerely )  
[REDACTED]

Response 2

Hang in there Geoff – It is Shamefull that people in authority haven't taken this Stand before you. If people and business's continue to take the easy way out with Halal meat, then the State of animal welfare in this Country regresses 200 years.

 You should be given an OBE and I'm a card carrying Labourman! Yours 

Response 3

DEAR COUNCILLOR DRIVER

MANY THANKS TO YOURSELF AND ALL THE OTHER  
COUNTY COUNCILLORS WHO VOTED AGAINST THE  
PRACTICE OF SERVING HALAL MEAT WHICH HAD NOT  
BEEN PRE-STUNNED.

HOW ANYONE CAN BE IN FAVOUR OF TORTURING ANIMALS  
TO DEATH FOR WHATEVER REASON ESCAPES ME.  
THE WELFARE OF THE ANIMALS SHOULD BE THE MAIN  
CONCERN AND I HOPE AND PRAY THAT THIS DECISION  
WILL NOT BE REVERSED IN THE FUTURE.

WHEN THE DECISION WAS TAKEN TO ALLOW ANIMALS  
TO BE TREATED IN SUCH A CRUEL WAY NO ONE  
WAS CONSULTED AT THAT TIME UNLIKE THE COUNCIL  
FOR MOSQUES WHOSE OPINIONS APPEAR TO BE  
ABOVE OTHERS.

YOURS SINCERELY

A large, solid black rectangular redaction box covering the signature and any text below it.

Response 4

[redacted] 28/10/17  
Dear Cllr Geoff Driver,  
I was very glad to read that Lancashire County Council has vetoed the purchase of nonstun-slaughtered meat. I was a [redacted] councillor, [redacted] and remain slightly active for the "Compassion in world farming" campaign. The issue appears distinct from party politics, and it's an unsatisfactory sort of religion whose god wants unnecessarily cruel husbandry. Constitutionally we're a Christian nation via 1688 Bill of Rights and our Queen's Coronation Oath; and people who <sup>have</sup> come here with other faiths should do as we do, either by stun-halal or by vegetarianism. Well done! [redacted]

Response 5

  
**Veterinary Surgeon**

---

PERSONAL

9<sup>th</sup> November, 2017

Geoffrey Driver Esq.,  
Leader,  
Lancashire County Council,  
PO Box 78,  
County Hall,  
Fishergate,  
PRESTON,  
Lancs., PR1 8XJ.

*Gen M. Driver*

Congratulations on your efforts to have halal meat banned in the county, or at least labelled as such.

Most reasonable electors in Lancashire accept that it is a medieval practice and without any apparent basis in science.

I am sure that you already had background information prior to your proposal, but I thought the enclosed measured article from a respected veterinary journal might be useful in arguing your case. The British Veterinary Association (BVA) is a non-confrontational organisation to which most veterinary surgeons belong. Lord Trees, who was Sandy Trees in another life, is a well-respected academic and Dean of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Liverpool.

More power to your elbow and good luck.

*Yours truly,*



## Response 6



Lancashire County Council  
PO Box 78 County Hall  
Fishergate, Preston  
Lancashire  
PR1 8XJ

2 January 2018

Dear Cllr Geoff Driver CBE,

Firstly, I wish to commend you and Lancashire County Council in trying to implement all schools in your authority to serve meat from non-halal suppliers. It is refreshing to hear you are trying to make a stand for the vast majority against this cruel and unnecessary slaughter method.

You have the overwhelming support of the British Public. My parents were not born in the UK, however they both whole heartily agree no animal should die a painful death based purely on 'religious' belief as do I.

Please keep up the momentum and do not allow some quarters [who do not speak for 'us'] to silence the animals' screams and general public's compassionate voice.

Below I have quoted some public opinions in response to this, source:  
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-5208075/Lancashire-mosques-legal-action-against-council-halal-ban.html#ixzz525iabdlHb>.

The number of green 'best rated' comments, show feeling on this subject matter is very strong [over 7,783]. The words written speak for themselves in terms of how the public feel about Abdul Hamid Qureshi's (CEO of the Lancashire Council of Mosques (LCM)) idiotic and without merit stance.

I have also written to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs - Michael Gove MP to see what he can do to help assist in this matter to ensure animals do not need to suffer this unnecessary and cruel slaughter. I enclose my letter written to Mr Gove for your reference. As Mr Gove has said in his own words: 'all animals should be treated with the utmost respect at all stages of life subject to the highest possible welfare standards'.

Newest

Oldest

Best rated

Worst rated

 View all

The comments below have been moderated in advance.



**criticus** Reading, United Kingdom, 3 days ago

No need to consult. It's a barbaric stoneage practice that has no place in the modern world. It flies in the face of our anti cruelty legislation. If they are that devout then go to a muslim country and Stop trying to turn out into one

Click to rate

 7883

 220

2 of 5 replies | See all replies

- 

**mysterytramp** The streets, United Kingdom, 3 days ago

Not as hurtful and negative as the poor animals endure. Ban halal for the whole UK







Click to rate  6458  176
- 

**sceptic** somewhere in europe, United Kingdom, 3 days ago

The majority of the British population do not agree with the slaughter of animals in the halal way, they and their children should not be forced into eating it either at school or in restaurants. The same goes for halal meat on sale in supermarkets that is not marked as such. If parents do not want their children to eat non halal meat at school, they should instruct their children not to eat the meat, they can continue to feed it to their children at home. Good for Lancashire County Council, hope all other UK councils follow their lead

Click to rate  6164  110
- 

**cherry** london, United Kingdom, 3 days ago

The halal meat shouldn't be forced on the non-Muslim population, and should be banned in this country, because off suffering of animals!

Click to rate  5507  84
- 

**Caroline** Limousin, France, 3 days ago

They were not consulted, well what about all the parents of the children who were served this who are against it. So their feelings were hurt, well not as much as the animals they barbarically slaughter who suffer the most horrendous pain when killed. Well done Lancashire Council, now ban it in every school. It should be outlawed in a country that supposed to support animal welfare

Click to rate  6255  92
- 

**ScotMk** Mkt, United Kingdom, 3 days ago

Were we asked if it was OK to have halal meat served in our Schools in the first place?







Click to rate  6234  64
- 

**Web349** North Yorks, United Kingdom, 3 days ago

This is a good decision and should be made law for everyone.

Click to rate  4949  152

**jeff1066** Wembley, United Kingdom, 3 days ago

Hope the courts don't give in to this abhorrent practice

Click to rate 4476 92

**ArchbishopBanterbury** Houston, United States, 3 days ago

You don't need to be consulted. But, not happy with the law of the land? Then move back to the land you came from.

Click to rate 4288 72

**Citizen** Cardiff, 3 days ago

The UK masses were not consulted when they started making the practice of Halal the norm so why would we need to ask a MINORITY like Muslims if we stop it. Why aren't the RSPA taking the whole thing to court as the practice is CRUEL to animals

Click to rate 1454 5

There was a recent petition:  
<https://www.change.org/p/rt-hon-theresa-may-mp-to-ban-halal-slaughter-in-the-uk>  
 In which over 209,705 people agreed with the subject title.  
 Screenshot overleaf.

Petitioning Prime Minister of the United Kingdom and Leader of the Conservative Party Theresa May MP and 6 others

## To ban halal and Kosher slaughter in the UK

Glenn Anderson welch, United Kingdom



Halal and Kosher slaughter was the only way known to kill ANIMALS for food. However, that was thousands of years ago. Times have changed, this practice has no place in a civilised society. The cruel slaughter, which unqualified people perform on a daily basis, needs to be banned in this country. Our slaughter

I sincerely hope you are successful in the implementation of introducing non-halal meat to schools and would be interested if you could keep me updated on matters. Thank you Geoff.

Yours sincerely,

### Petition Closed

20,225 needed to reach 300,000

Share on Facebook

Find a petitioner who's signed your petition

Sign Theresa May MP To Ban Halal Slaughter In The UK

Post to Facebook

Send a Facebook message

Send an email to friends

Tweet about this petition

## Response 7



31 October 2017

Councillor Geoff Driver CBE  
Lancashire County Council  
County Hall  
Preston  
PR1 8XJ

Dear Councillor Driver,

I am writing on behalf of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, the national representative body of the UK Jewish community.

It is with some concern that we note coverage of the resolution passed by Lancashire County Council on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October, concerning the provision of non-mechanically stunned meat in Lancashire for school meals.

We found the tone of the debate concerning in the context of respecting an inclusive, diverse and pluralist society. We also believe that the discussion assumed that mechanical stunning is good while religious slaughter is bad. This could not be further from the truth, as mechanical methods including drowning, electrocuting and gassing cause pain and often go wrong, prolonging an animal's suffering.

We would therefore appreciate the opportunity to meet you to discuss the vote and its implications. I would be grateful if you could send us some dates that you might be available for this.

Yours sincerely,

*Marie van der Zyl*

Marie van der Zyl  
Vice President

Response 8

8.1.18

Dear Sir

10 JAN 2018

The meaning of Christmas is to spread love, kindness to all mankind, and to pursue peace amongst all nations on earth. I am therefore writing, very distressed by your desires to cause so much distress and anxiety to the Orthodox Jewish Community and the Muslim community regarding ritual killing which has been practised for centuries.

If you refer to the Sunday Times Newspaper, Sunday edition, about 3 years ago,

a full page was written with photographs of cows writhing in pain, not having been stunned properly. This indicated that "stunning" is not the perfect answer.

We should all be so grateful to you, to restore our peace of mind and allow our caring traditions to continue. The Torah teaches that we first have to be kind to our animals and care for our animals first and then 'care for others'.

Thanking you in anticipation, of receiving, peace of mind.

Most sincerely

#### Response 9

You get my backing on the subject of banning Hala Meat. This is a disgusting practice and should be banned for the sake of animal welfare.

#### Response 10

I support your campaign to ban all non-stunned halal meat to schools. The law states that non-stunned halal meat is not allowed to be served to people unknowingly. Furthermore, the law states that non-stunned halal meat should not be given to non-Muslim children and adults. I want the law upheld.

The law should protect the welfare of all animals (including chickens) and protect children and adults from being served non-stunned halal meat. It is well-known that animals that are slaughtered without being stunned first can suffer a prolonged and cruel death that is contrary to the protection of animal rights and welfare in the UK.

#### Response 11

I'm in favour supplying animals slaughtered by full captive bolt for school meals. Unstunned and recoverable stunned slaughter has been deemed cruel by vets and other associations. We have fought long and hard in the UK for the least stressful method of slaughter to see the results being undermined. Sikhs and some other religions are not allowed to eat ritually slaughtered meat and their rights must be considered.

#### Response 12

I think it's wrong that British children are forced to eat non stun Halal meat unknowingly, and if we can prevent this from happening in our schools and businesses, you get my backing.

#### Response 13

I was most disturbed to hear of your reversal of a decision to now allow halal meat to be served in our schools . I do not agree with the inhuman slaughter methods used in the preparation of halal meat and also having my granddaughter's right to eat non halal meat taken away .

Concerned Lancashire resident !

#### Response 14

I would like to protest against halhal meat being served in our schools. I do not agree with the slaughter of animals in this way and if it goes ahead I will be sending my daughter to school with a packed lunch. Unless of course non halal is also available.

#### Response 15

I am against cruel methods of animal slaughter and therefore fully support your campaign to ban non stunned halal meat from schools.

#### Response 16

I am writing to you to express my concern about Halal meat being served in our schools. I am astonished that this has been allowed to happen. This meat is being fed to children who do not know the nature of the slaughter. It is unfair to force this on children by stealth.

The Government says in it's own legislation that Non stun Halal is not allowed to be served to people unknowingly or who are not Muslim.

Britain has a high standard of animal welfare. Non stunned is cruel and unnecessary and that's if the slaughter goes well. In many instances because the animal puts up resistance it is a laborious death.

I am an animal lover and I find this completely unacceptable.

Please try your hardest to get this meat removed from our schools. It upsets me that my beautiful nieces are being forced to eat this meat. I know that they would be very distressed if they were told about the cruel method of the slaughter.

#### Response 17

I am utterly appalled that non stun Halal meat is being served to children in schools, who do not follow the Muslim or Jewish faith and are totally oblivious to the fact that the poor animal they are eating, had to die in such an abhorrent way.

I understand that Muslim and Jewish people eat non stun Halal meat, because of their religious beliefs. However, they have lived in European countries for years and have always managed to source meat which has been slaughtered in accordance with their religious beliefs. So why are we suddenly having to purchase meat, that has not been pre-stunned?

At the very least, the meat should be labelled as Halal, so that schools, or the general public can make an informed choice as to what they are buying.

Animals are sentient beings who feel pain, emotion and grief the same as we do and I for one, want to be able to choose meat that has been pre-stunned.

#### Response 18

I am a slaughterman who works in stunned slaughter and will happily sign any paper to have non halal meat in our schools or even our country. Halal slaughter is barbaric and should have no place in Any sort of civilised society


### Response 19

I support your campaign to ban all non-stunned halal meat to schools. The law states that non-stunned halal meat is not allowed to be served to people unknowingly.

Furthermore, the law states that non-stunned halal meat should not be given to non-Muslim children and adults. I want the law upheld.

The law should protect the welfare of all animals (including chickens) and protect children and adults from being served non-stunned halal meat. It is well-known that animals that are slaughtered without being stunned first can suffer a prolonged and cruel death that is contrary to the protection of animal rights and welfare in the UK.

### Response 20

Good luck with your fight. Go for it. 

### Response 21

Further to my last e-mail I wholeheartedly support the ban on non-stunned halal meat being served in Lancashire schools because:

- The Government says in its own legislation that Non stunned Halal is not allowed to be served to people unknowingly or who are not Muslim
- it completely violates the UK's animal welfare standards
- it causes totally unnecessary suffering to the millions of animals killed this way
- People who do not follow a religion that insists on this slaughter should not be forced to accept it
- If you told the (non-muslim) children how the meat on their plate has been killed they would stop eating it
- Halal meats are available pre stunned and supplied to supermarkets and other caterers - and this is perfectly acceptable under Islamic 'law. The Muslims for the sake of animal welfare should use this compromise.
- If the council of mosques or Muslims are concerned then they must make alternative arrangements
- In very many European Countries they refuse to serve halal meat to anyone who is not muslim and halal in the food chain is very tightly controlled.
- I have forwarded this to over 3000 followers on Facebook for them to use as they see fit.

Please forward this to every councillor in Lancashire County Council on my behalf.

### Response 22

I wish to show my support for CC Driver as I strongly uphold the view that we have the right to know, and choose, what we eat according to animal welfare laws which we fought very hard for years to get.

I keep Shetland Sheep as pets and It would be a revelation to people who think they are just dumb animals if they could see them interact with me and their fellow flock members. They are without a doubt SENTIENT beings and deserve as peaceful a death as possible with full non recoverable stun-it is deceiving people when it is said halal ritual slaughter DOES (sometimes) involve stunning because it is NOT full captive bolt etc stunning- this recoverable stun can be far worse as they can and do regain consciousness.

I would wish to see a total ban on all ritual slaughter-it is barbaric and has NO PLACE in the 21c.

Ritual slaughter belongs in the history books -and it is wrong that an ideology takes precedent over animals rights and cruelty. It makes me feel ill and definitely affects my well being and as there is no labelling etc I cannot bear the thought of eating this meat unwittingly so do not buy ANY now. Other countries HAVE banned ritual slaughter-there are some things that must not be given as rights if they are morally wrong just to appease an outdated ideology.

Muslims CAN and do eat what we eat-it says in Koran 'eat what is put before you.....' they can say bismala if they care to like we say 'for what we are about to receive etc...my muslim friends do not eat halal certified meat or products and say it is actually AGAINST the teaching in Koran --and just a huge money making business that gets used for money laundering and jihad and funds extremist groups-and all non muslims are paying the tax unwittingly that goes only to muslim causes to furtherance of islamification-there is much more to this halal certification than we are told ----It is the extremist elements in this ideology are demanding rights for sinister purposes-this is from muslim friends who are as concerned about the whole thing as we are. They are vegetarian.

It really is an OUTRAGE to a country who hold animal welfare as a top priority.

I believe there is a consultation questionnaire ?-Please could I have a copy?

Thank you-I simply was going to ask for this but got carried away-I, and many hundreds of thousands like me feel SO strongly on this and feel OUR rights -the majority, and OUR customs and culture and ideology, are being totally ignored..and we do not know what we are eating -have no choice.

### Response 23

Firstly for meat to be halal the animal must be fully awake as it is being slaughtered plus a "prayer" is said by

slaughterman.

If the animal is

stunned in any way before slaughter the meat is not halal.

Muslims have a saying "the more an animal suffers before death - the sweeter the meat." I have travelled extensively in the middle east and the torture and cruel

treatment these animals suffer is horrific. Believe me it also occurs in muslim places of slaughter in the Uk.

Denmark is the only European nation to completely ban halal slaughter.

Uk vets and Rspca have long condemned this practice but nothing is done as the establishment do not want to upset the muslims. Disgraceful.

Australia exports live animals to the middle east and Indonesia. Last year a party of vets went to Indonesia and covertly filmed at a slaughter house. They reported animals having metal poles thrust into their eyes- legs tied and men pulling animal in opposite directions until it's legs snapped- kicked and punched before slitting it's throat. The creature then hoisted up on a rack to slowly bleed to death. This is a barbaric way to treat animals. In order that brainwashed muslims can supposedly keep to the word of their so called god.

As a result australia banned export of live animals. The real problem in this nation and western nations in general is that halal meat is creeping into supermarkets- fast food shops- and we are unaware we are being given it. Some schools in uk only serve halal meat sometimes when muslims in the school are less than 20%. One final FACT- due to certification that meat is halal a payment is made to muslim bodies for such certification - in case you are unaware part of that money is diverted to islamic terror groups to fund their war against the west. Australian counter terror police discovered this and it is world wide.

So finally- the answer is only serve meat which is slaughtered in a british slaughter house and not halal. If these people want it the answer is simple- go live in a muslim country.

Of course the way things are going it might be uk next. French schools only served one type of meat and its not halal!

Reading your report document it comments on practice of the animals not being able to see another animal being slaughtered and a sharp knife being used and sharpened for each animal- all rubbish. Recently in Bradford a muslim slaughter house lost its licence- filthy premises- animals all crowded in so that they all saw what was happening and the knife used was so blunt it was used to hack at the animals throat. If you have any feelings for animals - ban this meat in your schools and workplace

#### Response 24

Why, when there is no earthly reason, is un-stunned meat being given in our schools. I always understood a prayer was all that was needed to make it conform to Halal requirements.

### Response 25

I think it is totally wrong British children are forced to eat non stun Halal meat unknowingly.

### Response 26

I am ashamed and disgusted that halal slaughtered meat is being dished out to our children in Lancashire and probably everywhere else in England.

Halal slaughter is not the British way, is barbaric and abhorrent.

We all know now that certain abattoirs overproduce and sell halal slaughtered meat as haram. That too is unacceptable.

Please work to get this vile practice stopped.

### Response 27

I support your campaign to ban all non-stunned halal meat to schools. The law states that non-stunned halal meat is not allowed to be served to people unknowingly. Furthermore, the law states that non-stunned halal meat should not be given to non-Muslim children and adults. I want the law upheld.

The law should protect the welfare of all animals (including chickens) and protect children and adults from being served non-stunned halal meat. It is well-known that animals that are slaughtered without being stunned first can suffer a prolonged and cruel death that is contrary to the protection of animal rights and welfare in the UK.

### Response 28

I wish to repeat my grave concerns, for the possibility of a return to the practice of none stunning of animals being slaughtered.

It is the law in this country that animals should be treated in a proper manner when being killed for food. People from other countries have different customs, I have to accept that, as much as I might not agree with them.

I feel it is totally unacceptable, that these people think they have a right to continue a practice, that is not compatible with the laws of this country or with the majority of people in this country.

I don't think the fight to continue your good work will be easy, but I wish you all the best in your efforts to do what is right and for the animals.

#### Response 29

I would stun the animals before slaughtering. We have a minority population in the U.K which has a religious stance for Halal meat.

We should care for the animals when they grow up, we have the highest standards of care in farming. I strongly disagree that we have un-stunned animals before slaughter. We should care for them when we slaughter the animal.

We manage in the UK for the small percentage in the population.

We should show some respect when they get slaughtered.

The throat is cut, blood loss takes perhaps 1 minute, have you looked on you tube, its appalling.

I think we should do a tv program in reference to animals being slaughtered by Halal.

I strongly disagree without animals being un-stunned.

I will get some votes and get it discussed in Parliament.

#### Response 30

I wish to add my concern and to say that I am disgusted with how animals are killed for the food chain in order to create Halal meat. The welfare of the animals should always come first and their death should be brought about in the most caring and humane way possible. Killing terrified animals in front of each other and allowing them to bleed to death slowly is Inhumane. The thought of this practice taking place in order to feed our children is abhorrent to me and not a part of our cultural heritage as animal lovers.

#### Response 31

All animals should be stunned prior to slaughter

#### Response 32

Our schools should not be serving non stunned Halal meat at all. This cruel and barbaric way of slaughtering should be outlawed.

Non muslims have a right not to be fed this meat it is morally reprehensible that you are only providing Halal.

Shame on you.

#### Response 33

It is wrong that British children are forced to eat non-stun Halal meat unknowingly.

Response 34

It took decades of campaigning to get legislation to have animals slaughtered humanely. As the duly elected representatives, the electorate assumes you act ethically on their behalf and by supplying meat from barbarically slaughtered cattle to children who are not aware of how these animals are treated you have breached that trust. I, in some ways I feel sorry for you, you are being threatened with a lawsuit if you stop supplying non-stun meat and quite possibly a lawsuit if you continue to supply it illegally.

I understand a statement to the effect there was no demand for stunned meat. The only reason is that the supply of non-stun meat was a deal done in the secret. In secret as I suspect you know there would be an outcry if it was made public. I would challenge you to put the question on your website and judge from the result how strongly the public feels about this underhand decision.

Response 35

Killing of animals for human consumption without first stunning animals is barbaric! Also, it is against the law in the United Kingdom. Parliament has forbidden the use of Halal meat in restaurants within the Houses of Parliament.

Ideological reasons by some ethnic groups should not be allowed to supplant the law of the land, and if such ideologues are not content to accept the law, they are free to leave. There are more than fifty countries in the World who share and practise their ideological beliefs.

Response 36

Muslims can have stunned Halal they have a totally acceptable choice, there is no need for unnecessary suffering in the name of any religion.

I think it's wrong that British children are forced to eat non stun Halal meat unknowingly. please stop serving halal school dinners this is totally unacceptable in a Christian country!

Response 37

I am just emailing to raise my concerns that Halal meat is still being used in our local schools. I am not at all happy that my daughter is being given this meat on a daily basis and ask if there is any possibility of the Lancashire County Council getting halal meat banned for once and all. If muslim's aren't happy with this then I suggest that they send their children in with packed lunches. It outrages me that we have to go by their law and beliefs in this country.

I could say a lot more but think I will leave it there for now.

Please Lancashire County Council don't back down for them!

#### Response 38

I write to urge you to continue with the fight to ban halal meat in Lancashire schools.

I cannot believe that any right thinking person would want to eat anything that has died a fearful and painful death because of some mediaeval ideology masquerading as a religion!

Animals are sentient beings, they have a brain and nervous system and feel fear and pain the same as we do.

Where does the RSPCA stand on this issue, they surely have guidelines as to the slaughter of animals?

I've seen an animal killed the halal way, and it's not something I ever want to see again. The beast took around 6 minutes to die, making the most pitiful noise I've ever heard and writhing on the ground! Barbaric is an understatement.

Personally, I don't understand why this practice is allowed anywhere in the UK.

We, as a nation of animal lovers, really must stand together on this matter.

Why oh why are we always trying to appease the minorities? I'm sure other European countries don't.

If muslims don't like the idea of non halal meat, then surely a vegetarian option could be considered or why not suggest a packed lunch?

#### Response 39

First of all " thank you" for trying to ban non stunned halal meat in schools! I was so Pleased to hear this news-and saddened that it's now back on the menu!! Torturing animals to death in the name of a mediaeval religion is barbaric and must cease!

Animals are sentient beings with a brain and a nervous system-which means they feel Fear and pain just like we do-just because they can't speak -we must speak up for them!!

Saying there's no demand for non halal meat is simply not true!!!

Please continue to speak up for animals and the majority of citizens who do not agree with halal slaughter!

#### Response 40

I am writing to express my great concern about non stun halal slaughter of animals and that meat being given to school children.

There is absolutely NO reason to do this when animals can be stunned prior to slaughter for those who are carnivores. I have seen graphic videos of what happens in slaughterhouses that are non stun. It is disgusting how animals in this country are being allowed to be killed in this inhumane way - the maltreatment and fear that animals witness when other animals before them are having their throats slashed is truly sickening and gratuitous.

We should be thinking of the welfare of these animals as a priority not a minority's cultural needs. This is England.

#### Response 41

I have been reliably informed that you have capitulated to the Muslim minority to allow Halal meat, and by inference all our non Muslim children weather they like it or not will be forced to eat this Barbaric slaughtered meat. You are all weak and have given in to these bully boys, women don't come in to the equation as they have no voice within the Muslim house. You should have stood firm and said no, and if these Muslims do no like to abide the laws of our stunning and slaughtering, they should leave our country. I have very strong views on this

#### Response 42

Whilst I understand things may be difficult it should be a choice.

No one should be exposed to anything that could be offensive or cruel.

In this case the non stun of animals should be totally banned from this country altogether, it's a vile practice and means we've gone backwards with the way we deal with things.

No one I repeat no one should have to have halal forced upon them without knowing.

You are I'm sure within your rights to ban this.

#### Response 43

Question 1 of the consultation is misleading. It says you are considering whether to serve stunned or unstunned halal meat and then asks if I object to serving stunned halal meat. If I say I object, I'm potentially saying I approve of unstunned halal meat. It's a badly worded question that will sway the vote outcome toward unstunned halal meat, but I think you knew this when the consulting questionnaire was being drafted.

And just for the record in a civilised society that have law protecting animals we shouldn't be serving any kind of meat that has been slaughtered were the animal has had its throat slit and bleed to death.

Response 44

People, schools should not be given halal meat. This is a Christian Country and we have a right to choose what we are served. Halal meat means animals slaughtered in a brutal way and I and my family do not want to eat this meat without being informed.

Response 45



Charity registration Number: 1015119

7<sup>th</sup> March 2018

To Lancashire County Council

Dear Sir, Madam

**Re: Halal Meat Consultation 2018**

We write on behalf of the Lancashire Council of Mosques ("LCM") in relation to the consultation where the County Council is considering its current policy for the supply of Halal meat to schools. The County Council has stated it is considering a proposal to provide only stunned Halal meat to schools.

This is LCM's response to the consultation which we ask to be considered in addition to a number of responses from members of our community which have been submitted separately

**Halal**

LCM is opposed to any change in the Council's current policy for supplying Halal meat to schools. We do not believe that meat derived from animals which are stunned before slaughter complies with the requirements of slaughter so as to be in conformity with the principles of Halal.

This is an issue of religious belief and adherence to the requirements of our faith and is not something which can be modified or negotiated. We believe this view is shared by many in the communities we represent.

We are aware that it has been suggested that this position is out of keeping with the vast majority of Muslims. We do not accept this. We recognise that what is required for Halal is a matter of some debate amongst Muslims and peoples views do differ. Many Muslims are of the view that stunned meat is not meat produced in accordance with Halal requirements.

The task group established in 2013 which carried out the previous review of the policy expressly recognised the value of the work that LCM carry out and acknowledged that LCM is a representative body which speaks for the vast majority of Muslims in Lancashire; and that the County Council has always sought the views of LCM in developing its policy on Halal. Given our views and those of the community we represent, that stunned meat is not compatible with the requirements of our religious observance and given the authority with which we speak on behalf of our community,

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as has been recognised by the County Council, we believe this should carry significant weight with the Council.

### **Children's welfare**

In our view and our experience it is likely that a significant percentage of the Muslim community of Lancashire who currently use the school meals service believe that eating stunned meat would not be compatible with their religious beliefs and requirements. If the change of policy is implemented this will lead to many children no longer taking up school lunches, which may have serious adverse consequences for those children.

### **Humane slaughter**

The consultation document does not explain why the Council considers the change of policy to be a good idea and in what respects it would be beneficial. However we assume, given the debates which have taken place previously, that the proposed change may be motivated by a belief that stunned meat is more "humane".

This is a view that is by no means universally accepted and in fact the scientific evidence on this matter is divided. It cannot be said definitively or authoritatively that animals which are stunned before slaughter are subject to more humane or less painful treatment. The scientific evidence does not support such a definitive conclusion.

In fact the practice of Halal is rooted in respect for animals and regard to their welfare.

### **Community Relations**

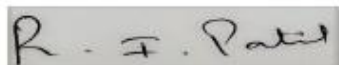
We also want to raise our concerns that there is a real risk that the continued pressure to change this policy will have a significant adverse impact on community relations. Some of the language used in the previous debate caused real offence to our community. This is already a time of heightened tension and fearfulness for members of our community. This proposal creates a risk of Muslims being characterised as supporting cruel or abhorrent methods of slaughter.

It also creates an impression in the community that our religious beliefs are not given serious regard or respect by those elected to represent us.

LCM has very serious concerns about the implications for community cohesion if the policy is implemented.

In view of these representations we would urge the Council not to change the current policy or to press this matter any further.

Yours Sincerely



(Imam) Rafiq Ismail Patel  
LCM, Chairman

Bangor Street Community Centre, Norwich Street, Blackburn, Lancashire, BB1 6NZ  
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Response 46

4-3-2018

07 MAR 2018

Dear Mr Geoff Drival

Regarding Halal meat for schools I hope you and all you people stay strong in the outcome of this. No animal or chicken etc. should be made to suffer this horrendous practice slitting of throats without being stunned first just for the sake of Religion. These people never take no for an answer. be it Islamic schools, Mosques etc. I have been a vegetarian for over 40 yrs with no prob, so there is lots of other things to eat. I am not racist at all, having Hindu friend etc. Please say No these people dont have to stay here!

Yours Sincerely

## Response 47

# Response to Lancashire County Council's halal meat consultation 2018

national  
secular  
society

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## About the National Secular Society

The National Secular Society is a party-politically neutral organisation that works for the separation of religion and state, and for equal respect for everyone's human rights so that no one is either advantaged or disadvantaged on account of their beliefs. We regard secularism and freedom of expression as essential features of a fair and open society.

## How strongly do you agree or disagree with the proposal to provide only stunned halal meat to schools?

Strongly agree

## Why do you say this?

Stunned halal meat is the only ethical option and it is accepted by the majority of Muslims.

The scientific consensus is clear that it is more humane to stun an animal prior to slaughter than not doing so. That is why animal welfare legislation requires all animals to be stunned before slaughter in order to minimise suffering, with exemptions given only to animals slaughtered by halal or kosher methods.

The government's own advisory body, the Farm Animal Welfare Council (FAWC), has recommended that the slaughter of animals without pre-stunning should be banned, with no exemptions. The FAWC have concluded that animals slaughtered without pre-stunning are likely to experience "very significant pain and distress" before they become unconscious.

Likewise, the EU's Scientific Panel on Animal Health and Welfare (AHAW) have stated that: "Due to the serious animal welfare concerns associated with slaughter without stunning, pre-cut stunning should always be performed."

The Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE) have stated: "FVE is of the opinion that the practice of slaughtering animals without prior stunning is unacceptable under any circumstances".

RSPCA, Compassion In World Farming and the British Veterinary Association all support an end to non-stun slaughter to improve animal welfare at the time of death.

Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland have all banned non-stun slaughter.

It is clear that the majority of Muslims in the UK accept pre-stunning prior to slaughter. Figures from the Food Standards Agency say that in 2012 of those animals slaughtered in the UK according to halal rules, 84% of cattle or calves, 81% of sheep and goats, and 88% of poultry were stunned before slaughter.

It is not true that all Muslims agree that unstunned meat is more “authentically” halal than stunned meat, or that unstunned meat is more widely accepted. Some halal suppliers consider stunned meat to be more in-line with Islamic values than unstunned meat because it causes less suffering. For example, halal supplier Najma [states on its website](#): “We follow the Islamic values of treating all animals with kindness and compassion. To ensure the welfare of the animals, we do use recoverable stunning prior to slaughter. This is in accordance to the specific rules set out by the Islamic faith and under supervision of our European Halal certifying bodies.”

It should also be noted that the non-stunned halal sector is harming retailers of stunned halal. The Halal Monitoring Committee (HMC) is putting halal suppliers under pressure by pushing the message that only non-stunned meat is “genuinely Halal”, implying that suppliers who sell stunned meat or do not bear the HMC logo are contravening Islamic law. Because halal suppliers fear losing the trust of their customers, they may feel forced to switch to unstunned halal meat and pay thousands of pounds for HMC certification.

A BBC News Look North segment reported on the issue of unstunned halal in Halifax in 2011. One halal trader interviewed, Ahmed Pervaz of Medina Poultry who has 20 years’ experience in the industry, stated that HMC are “really hammering the halal industry” and that “they’re nothing but a scam.” He said that “people believe them because they appear to be Islamically dressed, Islamically knowledgeable, but when it comes to halal, they have no authority.”

Councils have a duty to provide healthy and nutritious schools meals. They also have a duty to ensure the food they provide is sourced ethically in a manner that does not harm people, animals or the environment. They do not have a duty to cater for every religious dietary preference of every pupil’s family, and especially if those preferences mean contravening the advice of veterinary and farming associations, and causing harm to local businesses.

### What impact would this proposal have on you?

This proposal has nation-wide implications. If the council reverses its decision to stop supplying unstunned meat in schools, it will give greater power to religious interest groups to assert their agenda on councils in other areas. It will also set a direction of travel for society as a whole with regards to animal welfare policy.

If LCC decide to supply unstunned meat to schools, it will amount to state support for slaughter methods that are regarded worldwide as unnecessarily cruel. It will send the message that the UK prioritises the demands of orthodox religious minorities over the basic welfare needs of animals. While increasing numbers of countries are deciding to ban non-stun slaughter, the UK will be moving in the opposite direction to the current trend in developed economies.

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### What, if anything, do you think could be done differently in providing halal meat to schools?

While it is important for councils to consider dietary requirements of school children, no council should be pressured into supplying meat slaughtered in a method that contravenes animal welfare out of religious concerns.

The National Secular Society has been researching the provision of halal meat to schools by UK councils. The majority of councils that the NSS has surveyed do not supply unstunned halal meat to schools. Several specifically state that they will not supply unstunned halal on animal welfare grounds; a few examples are given below:

"ACC sources its meat products via nationally procured frameworks. Our suppliers take animal welfare very seriously. All farmed animals which are slaughtered for their products are done so humanely, in accordance with EU and UK law. This includes provision to ensure that animals are rendered insensible to pain, distress or suffering, prior to killing and includes the stunning of animals prior to slaughter. Traditional Halal slaughter, which forbids the stunning of animals, is a practice which is not accepted by our suppliers on animal welfare grounds." (Aberdeen County Council)

"All animal product is stunned before slaughter in line with our food life and better animal welfare accreditations." (Greenwich Borough Council)

"The current providers providing school meals within the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham central contract supply Halal meat which meets the HFA standards and is pre stunned. As a local authority, we have specified that the halal meat provision is to meet the HFA standards and all British animal welfare standards." (Hammersmith & Fulham Council)

"The current providers providing school meals within the RBKC central contract supply Halal meat which meets the HFA standards and is pre stunned. As a local Authority we have specified that the halal meat provision is to meet the HFA standards and all British animal welfare standards." (Kensington & Chelsea Borough Council)

"Schools that work in partnership with Leicestershire Traded Services (LTS) Catering are provided with halal products that have been stunned before slaughter." (Leicestershire County Council)

"The Nottinghamshire County Council School Meals service does not include halal/kosher meat in its meals - pupils opt to have a vegetarian option" (Nottinghamshire County Council)

A vegetarian option should always be available in school meals. This would be acceptable to those Muslims who refuse to eat stunned meat.

It should also be stressed to families that those who wish their child to eat unstunned meat would still be permitted to provide the meat in a packed lunch.

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