

**Response from Waitrose Customer Sales and Supports concerning ritual slaughter
05October 2010**

Our approach and priority for all of our meat is to ensure that animal welfare is of the highest standard, approved by the Humane Slaughter Association. Our decision to ask the HSA to independently monitor our approach is a voluntary one and demonstrates the importance we place on animal welfare and the care of animals.

Our insistence that all animals must be stunned before slaughter are in line with the recommendations laid down by Compassion in World Farming and the RSPCA.

Clearly we are disappointed that you feel that we have lowered our standards in anyway and take this opportunity to reassure you that we are the leaders in this field and have consistently been recognised having recently won 'Most Compassionate Retailer' from Compassion in World farming.

UK law currently permits halal slaughter both with stunning and without. With our focus and need to ensure the highest welfare standards we have chosen not to label our lamb as halal as to not to undermine our high welfare credentials.

We have allowed the halal blessing at the point of slaughter after the animals have been rendered insensible to pain so that abattoirs can sell the parts of the animal that the UK consumer do not wish to purchase minimising food waste.

We have decided to offer our customers an option to buy lamb which has not received the halal blessing and this will be our lamb in the Duchy Originals from Waitrose range. All Duchy lamb that goes into our branches from Saturday 9 October will not have had a halal blessing.

I hope that this information is of assistance.

Regards,

Waitrose Customer Sales and Support.