

**Response from Sainbury's Customer Services concerning ritual slaughter,
08 October 2010**

Thank you for your email. I appreciate your concerns following recent media reports.

We know that this issue has been widely debated and some misinformation has been circulating. I'm therefore very pleased to have the opportunity to clear this up for you and clarify our position on this important issue.

We purchase some of our meat from suppliers that are halal licensed abattoirs. However we have never requested in our specifications that halal practices, such as a blessing, be followed. Our suppliers are explicitly aware of our requirements and these do not include any blessing practice. It would therefore be misleading to label our meat as halal.

In line with our high welfare standards, all the animals used for our meat are stunned prior to slaughter. Under no circumstances would we sell meat from an animal that has not been stunned and not treated humanely and with the utmost respect.

I'm grateful that you've taken the time to contact us. I hope I've been able to reassure you of our commitment to animal welfare and our intention not to mislead our customers.

Kind regards

Customer Manager