Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Update on the Bread and Flour Regulations 1998 – Notice of intent to consult

A consultation was undertaken in 2013 on the Bread and Flour Regulations to assess whether there was still a benefit and need to continue adding calcium, iron, thiamine and niacin to wheat flour. After careful analysis and scrutiny, the decision was made to leave the current Regulations unchanged.

However, since that time representations have been made to Defra on the issues related specifically to the labelling of the added nutrients, when flour is used in small quantities or as a minor component in food. Industry representatives of the milling and cereal industry have informed us that British companies are already experiencing a loss of business to European competitors who are not required to fortify flour. The current exemption that allows these nutrients to not be labelled expires upon the coming into force of the Food Information to the Consumer Regulations in December 2014.

We have therefore decided to consult on a change to the Regulations to address the labelling issue where flour is used as a component in an ingredient and ensure British businesses are not put at a disadvantage. The consultation will not focus on the issue of added nutrients to flour which Ministers took a decision on last year.

We are planning to initiate a consultation before Parliament’s summer recess period.