

## WRITTEN MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

#### **Joint response to the front of pack nutrition labelling consultation**

Thursday 31 January 2013

#### **The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Health**

**(Anna Soubry):** Today we have published the response to the front of pack nutrition labelling consultation held from May until August 2012. This is a joint response on behalf of the Department of Health, other Health Ministers across the UK and the Food Standards Agency.

This consultation provided us with helpful information on the views of the public, food industry, non governmental organisations and others on the voluntary provision of repeat nutrition information on the front of food packages, which informed our thinking on this subject. Great progress has been made since the consultation finished towards an emerging consensus for a consistent front of pack scheme. In particular, all ten of the major UK food retailers are now publicly committed to working with us, and each other, to help achieve our goals.

UK Health Ministers announced on 24 October 2012 our preference for a consistent front of pack system across the UK based on a 'hybrid' scheme combining colours and percentage guideline daily amounts. Officials across the UK are now working with the food industry and others to agree the detail of this hybrid approach.

*Front of pack nutrition labelling: joint response to consultation* has been placed in the Library. Copies of the response are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office and to noble Lords from the Printed Paper office. It is also available at:

[www.dh.gov.uk/health/category/publications/consultations/consultation-responses/](http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/category/publications/consultations/consultation-responses/)