



American Society for Nutrition
Excellence in Nutrition Research and Practice

February 26, 2013

Dr. Michelle McQuillan
Food Composition, Standards & Alcohol Team, Food Policy Unit
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Area 7E Millbank
C/o 17 Smith Square
London SW1P 3JR
England

Dear Dr. McQuillan:

The American Society for Nutrition (ASN) respectfully shares with you our concerns regarding the proposed repeal of England's mandatory wheat flour fortification as part of the "Red Tape Challenge" to reduce legislative burdens that may hinder economic progress. ASN is a non-profit, scientific society dedicated to bringing together the world's top researchers to advance our knowledge and application of nutrition. ASN has more than 4,800 members working in academia, practice, industry, and government who conduct research to help all individuals live healthier, more productive lives.

ASN supports the baseline option to continue mandatory fortification of flour with calcium, iron, thiamin and niacin. As evidenced by the Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition's review "Nutritional Implications of Repealing the UK Bread and Flour Regulations," there are negative public health ramifications that would result from deregulation of The Bread and Flour Regulations 1998. For example, ending flour fortification with calcium and iron will adversely affect many subpopulations, including children, the elderly and women, by increasing the incidence of osteoporosis and iron-deficiency anemia. Any costs saved by ending flour fortification will likely be lost to medical care expenses. Mandatory flour fortification protects consumers from many nutrition-related illnesses and provides equal health benefits for all consumers.

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue. Please contact Sarah D. Ohlhorst, MS, RD, Director of Government Relations at sohlhorst@nutrition.org or 301.634.7281 if ASN may provide additional information regarding our concerns with the proposed repeal of The Bread and Flour Regulations 1998.

Sincerely,

Teresa A. Davis, Ph.D.
2012-2013 President