

Thank you for your email addressed to our Chief Executive, Philip Clarke, to which I have been asked to respond.

I would like to thank you for contacting us about products sold at Tesco from Israeli settlements.

We understand that many customers have strong views - from a wide variety of positions - about the situation in the Middle East.

We take our duty very seriously in ensuring that all our products are safe and legal.

We follow DEFRA guidelines which recommend that labels for products from the West Bank state either "produce from the West Bank (Israeli Settlement Produce) or "Produce of the West Bank (Palestinian Produce)". Customers can then choose whether to buy the product on the basis of the information provided.

As a signatory and founder member of the Ethical Trading Initiative (ETI), we require all our suppliers to meet the working conditions set out in the ETI's Base Code. This includes clear guidance that employment be freely chosen and that no discrimination be practised. All our primary suppliers complete a regular risk assessment, while high and medium risk sites undergo a full independent ethical audit. If we receive any reports of alleged breaches of this Code, we do of course investigate them thoroughly.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to explain our position. I hope that the above information is helpful.

Kind regards

Sarah Wheeldon
Customer Service Executive

