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From: [redacted]
Sent: 21 May 2019 12:29
To: Finance Foodsuppl
Subject: VAT Treatment of Food Supplements - "0" Rating Please

Dear Sirs

I wish to recommend that the Revenue Commissioners be stopped from applying VAT to Health Food Supplements.

As a consumer of several different supplements, I am writing to ask that you take all steps within your power to STOP this from happening - we have enough tax to pay without adding a further burden in the form of a tax on our health!!

Due to the very long waiting lists in our hospitals, I already pay over €200 per month to the VHI for my family's health care.

I take the following supplements at present, which in light of side effects from pharmaceuticals, I believe it is much safer to take for my general health and wellbeing:

- Propolis - (Bee product) At the first sign of a cold or virus I take propolis [redacted]
[redacted]
- Melissa Officianilis - (Herb) [redacted]
- D3 for my bones [redacted]
[redacted]
- Calcium supplement for my bones also, [redacted]
[redacted]
- Omega 3 Fish Oils - For supple joints and brain health. [redacted]
[redacted]
- Vitamin B12 for nerve health in this stressful world of working a 39 hour week to pay tax after tax!
- Calcium supplement - I am very much against the pharmaceutical route of taking Fossoavance for bone density and bi-annual injections, as these stop the body's natural bone renewal and strengthening and are alleged to give more density to bones, but unfortunately the bones also become more brittle.

Pharmaceuticals are not the answer for everyone and long before their existence our ancestors used herbs in healing and natural products such as Propolis and because a "Clinical Trial" has not been conducted the age-old and widespread benefits of these supplements should not be dismissed.

Herbs, fish oils and propolis, etc., are all natural foods

Taxing these supplements will put them out of my reach financially, as I can barely afford them as it is and I find this very stressful. If I can't afford to pay more for them neither can thousands of other people and surely this will affect local businesses, especially the Health Stores which actually sell good wholesome healthy food and supplements.

Finally, I wonder is it legal to tax our supplements? They have been "0" rated since the introduction of VAT over 40 years ago now and I very much resent this proposed tax.

I do hope you will take my views seriously and make the right decision on this.

Many thanks

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