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From:

Sent:

[redacted]
21 May 2019 12:49

To:

Finance Foodsuppl

Subject:

Public consultation on the subject of VAT on food supplements

Dear Sir / Madam

I am writing this submission as a concerned member of the public whose family members use food supplements regularly.

[redacted]

[redacted] Good quality supplements are quite expensive already, so adding 23% VAT would make it very difficult for me to afford them.

[redacted]

People like us, who take supplements do so because they improve our health and wellbeing - if they didn't work we would hardly waste our money on them. Therefore, I was very concerned to see some of the comments made by the Taoiseach and members of the government recently regarding this VAT issue. It was very worrying to see elected representatives making misleading and disingenuous statements comparing weight loss and tanning products to food supplements such as omega 3's and vitamins and minerals which are known to have a beneficial effect on health. One can only assume this was an attempt to muddy the waters and cause confusion among the public. Weight loss and tanning products all appear to be already vatable at 23% and if people like the Taoiseach do not already know this they should make a better effort to inform themselves before issuing headline-grabbing soundbites.

Not everyone wishes to take pharmaceutical products, there are many people who choose to educate themselves on their health conditions and opt to take natural products instead. The leaflets that come with prescribed medication list a range of side effects that are nearly as bad as the ailment they are being taken to treat. Some of us would rather keep ourselves in good health now by taking supplements before we are forced into taking these chemicals.

With hospital waiting lists getting longer every year and GP's surgeries now turning patients away one would think the government would be encouraging and incentivising people to stay healthy instead of penalising them. Would the government rather that people who are proactive regarding their health relied solely on the public health system which is already overworked. Do they really want more people joining those queues?

So in conclusion, I would like to agree with Option 4 given in the submission guidelines. I think VAT of 23% should only be applied to products such as those for weight loss, tanning, etc. Food supplements such as vitamins, minerals, fish oils, omega 3's, probiotics, etc should be exempt.

Kind regards