

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 21 May 2019 16:31
To: Finance Foodsuppl
Subject: Proposed VAT on Food Supplements

To whom it may concern,

I am emailing to express my concern at the proposed VAT increase on food supplements from 0% to 23%. I personally feel this increase is unreasonable, unfair and detrimental to the health of the Irish public.

[Redacted]

[Redacted] Thousands of people like me who use food supplements to maintain their health are helping ease the pressure on our already over stretched health service by not having to attend doctors and hospitals so often and should not be punished with a 23% VAT hike.

Food supplements in Ireland have had a 0% VAT rating for the past 40 years so to jump to 23% overnight is a disgrace and an injustice to the people of Ireland. Why is it that fast food, chocolate, cakes and other food items which are bad for our health are only taxed at 13.5%? How is this fair or ethical? Long standing policy, practice and precedent has been that food supplements have been zero VAT rated as foods for over 40 years. To suggest that this policy has no legal basis or proof in practise is incorrect as revenue have implemented 0% VAT on food supplements since VAT was first introduced.

There is also the elderly to consider. Many of them take glucosamine supplements to maintain joint health as well as Omega 3 supplements for brain function, how will they afford their supplements with a 23% increase?

This VAT increase will mean that many people will not be able to afford their supplements anymore which in turn will increase the number of people succumbing to colds, flu and other illnesses and having to attend doctors and hospitals putting even more of a strain on the health service. Less people being able to buy these supplements will mean a huge loss of jobs in the food supplement sector, thousands of people will be out of work and having to seek social welfare. There are two such companies in [Redacted] alone. How does any of this seem like a good idea to either Revenue or the Minister for Finance?

It is a hasty and sneaky move on Revenue's part which may line their pockets but will have a devastating affect on the health of the Irish public and the job sector. I trust that you will take this threat to the health of the Irish public seriously and do everything in your power to help stop this injustice.

Thank you for taking the time to read this email.

Kind regards,

[Redacted]

Sent from Outlook