

Dear Mr Jefferson,

Thank you for your enquiry of 3 December concerning the listing of the Food Standards Agency (FSA) as a named authority in the Investigatory Powers Act 2016.

You may be aware that, as a response to the horsemeat incident of 2013, the FSA established the [National Food Crime Unit](#) (NFCU) to provide national leadership in tackling serious criminality in UK food supply networks. The horsemeat incident showed the concern that can be caused to consumers when there is criminality in food supply networks and the need for the FSA to take an active role in protecting public health and consumer confidence in food. To help achieve this, it may be necessary in some targeted investigations for the NFCU to have access to communications data to identify offenders and their criminal activity.

I hope that this clarifies the position.

Kind Regards,

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

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Food Standards Agency (FSA)

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