



Matt Western MP
Warwick & Leamington

Simon Roberts
CEO of Sainsburys.
[Sent via e-mail]

31st March 2026

Dear Simon,

Until recently, I was a member of the House of Commons, Business and Trade Select Committee. We took evidence in relation to the sale of goods, sourced from Israel's illegal (West Bank) settlements, in UK supermarkets.

In July 2024 the International Court of Justice issued an advisory opinion which declared Israel's occupation of Palestinian Territory – and its settlements – illegal under international law. The Court directed third States "To abstain from entering into economic or trade dealings with Israel concerning the Occupied Palestinian Territory" and "To take steps to prevent trade or investment relations that assist in the maintenance of the illegal situation".

This opinion is widely interpreted as meaning third States must not trade with settlements. The committee is considering this issue, including through discussions with the UK government, however in the meantime I would be interested in understanding Sainsbury's position on stocking settlement goods.

One particular example has been brought to my attention. I understand that, as of August 2025, Sainsbury's sold Achva halva, which is manufactured in the Ariel West Industrial Zone, located in the settlement of Ariel. The company also operates in the Barkan Industrial Zone, in the settlement of Barkan. Given the location of production, the halva constitutes, at least in part, a benefit derived from the crimes of transfer and appropriation that led to the establishment of the Barkan Industrial Zone. On this basis, it qualifies as criminal property for the purposes of your interactions with it.

With the aforementioned example in mind, I would appreciate it if you could respond to some questions I have set out below:

Does Sainsbury's knowingly import and/or sell goods from Israeli settlements?

As you know, the UK's Overseas Business Risk¹ advice for Israel sets out that:

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/overseas-business-risk-israel/overseas-business-risk-israel--3>

- Settlements are illegal under international law
- There are clear risks related to economic and financial activities in the settlements
- The UK therefore does not encourage or offer support to such activity
- UK citizens and businesses should be aware of the potential reputational implications of getting involved in economic and financial activities in settlements, as well as possible abuses of the rights of individuals.

I am therefore interested to know:

- Do you interpret this guidance into a policy decision not to source products from settlements?
- Do you currently source any other products from settlements? If you do not, when did you take this policy decision?

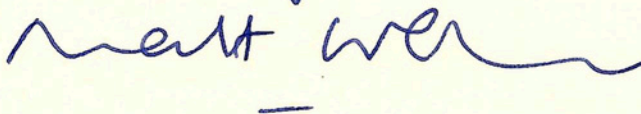
What due diligence procedures do you undertake to verify the correct origin of Israeli products?

UK government Ministers have accepted there are “*challenges of ensuring that goods [from Israeli settlements] are properly and accurately labelled*”².

- What due diligence procedures do you undertake to ensure that Israeli products originate from within Israel, and not from settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory? Does this include requesting verification of the origin location of all parts of the supply chain?
- Does Sainsbury’s employ a risk-based approach to enhanced verification, for example requiring enhanced verification of origin documentation from all Israeli exporters known to have (or to source from) enterprises in the Settlements?
- Is Sainsbury’s aware of the practice of mingling of products (from Israel-proper and settlements) in packing houses to obfuscate their origin?
- Has Sainsbury’s uncovered instances of products purporting to originate from Israel that give grounds for suspicion of being mislabelled? If not, what kind of evidence would trigger such grounds?

Finally, what impact would a UK wide ban on trade with Israeli settlements have for your business?

Thank you for your consideration, I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely


² Q176 <https://committees.parliament.uk/oralevidence/15512/html/>