



FPC PRESS RELEASE

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UK fresh produce industry calls for urgent confirmation of source of E.coli outbreak in Germany

On behalf of the industry the Fresh Produce Consortium (FPC) is calling for urgent clarification and confirmation of the source of the outbreak of E.coli in Germany.

“To date there is no confirmation of what has caused this terrible outbreak, and no evidence to link fresh fruit and vegetables or any other food to this incident,” said Nigel Jenney, Chief Executive of the FPC. “It is vital for both the industry and consumers that we have urgent clarification of the source of this outbreak and that we maintain consumer confidence whilst the investigations are on-going.”

Food poisoning outbreaks linked with the contamination of fresh produce remain extremely rare in the UK. Good agricultural practices, hygiene preparations and packaging minimise the potential for contamination. The fresh produce industry has stringent standards in place to ensure that consumers can enjoy safe, healthy, good quality fresh produce.

“We are aware that speculation on the cause of this incident is having a significant impact on our members across the supply chain; we will encourage Defra to fight the cause for the UK industry and investigate the scope for financial compensation through the European Commission and to rebuild UK consumer confidence,” added Nigel Jenney.

FPC is liaising with the Food Standards Agency which is monitoring the situation and providing basic food hygiene advice to consumers.

Notes for editors:

1. The Fresh Produce Consortium (FPC) is the UK's fresh produce trade association and is based in Peterborough. The FPC has represented the fresh produce sector for many years and is recognised across the UK and EU as the voice of the industry.
2. Extensive membership covers the complete spectrum of industry businesses including growers, importers, wholesalers, retailers, distributors, processors, packers, food service companies and other allied organisations.

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