(Below correspondence dated 11th May 2012 via email has been furnished to us by The Sunday Times and is in response to a query from Sunday Times Journalist, Mark Tighe)

Hi Mark,

Thank you for your recent query and apologies for the delay in responding.

The Department of Health want to make clear that the Minister's position as outlined in the letter of 7 December, 2011 has not changed i.e. The Minister does not consider that a ban on the sale of raw milk for direct human consumption is proportionate to the public health risks involved.

The Minister has asked his officials to continue to engage with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine to ensure that a proportional regulatory system to control the sale of raw milk can be in put in place as quickly as possible.

Kind Regards

Martin

Press and Communications Office

Department of Health