

29 January 2014

PROSECUTION FOR WASTE FOOD THEFT

Iceland notes the press reports that the Crown Prosecution Service is pursuing a case against three individuals for the theft of waste food from bins in a secure storage yard behind the Iceland store in Kentish Town, London.

The store in question is next door to a police station. Iceland staff did not call the police, who attended on their own initiative. Nor did we instigate the resulting prosecution, of which we had no knowledge until the media reports of it appeared yesterday evening.

We are currently trying to find out from the Crown Prosecution Service why they believe that it is in the public interest to pursue a case against these three individuals, and will comment further when we are more fully informed.

On the issue of food waste more generally, we work very closely with all our suppliers to minimise the amount of waste food Iceland generates. Products are only designated as waste when they have passed their use-by dates and are considered unfit for human consumption. We utilise secure storage areas and / or locked waste bins to dispose of such products because allowing them to be consumed by members of the public would constitute a significant health and safety risk. All our food waste is ultimately disposed of through an environmentally friendly process of anaerobic digestion.

We sympathise with those who are struggling to meet their food bills and do our utmost to help not only by offering outstanding everyday value and great offers to our customers, but also through our support for Company Shop and a wide range of charities around the country.