28th March 2022 info@leappalliance.org.uk

Rt Hon. George Eustice MP,
Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs,
House of Commons,
London,
SW1A 0AA

Dear Secretary of State,

Lead Exposure Through Food

You may be aware that the European Union have recently tightened and extended the regulations relating to lead contamination in food. Commission Regulation (EU) 2021/1317 of 9 August 2021. Will the UK follow suit and update our current regulations?

A Unicef report estimates that 186,117 to 281,542 UK children have dangerous concentrations of lead in their blood. This could be costing the country 0.31% of GDP or £6bn per year.

Lead toxicity is associated with a wide range of health problems including:

- Reproductive – miscarriage, pre-term birth, low birth weight, delayed puberty
- Neurological - IQ loss, decreased hearing
- Psychological - problem behaviours, ADHD, depression, anxiety, panic
- Cardiovascular – heart attack, stroke, increased blood pressure
- Renal – reduced kidney function

Our "Manifesto for a Lead-Safe UK" explains the issue in much more detail with full references to scientific papers and government sources.

Please will you help ensure that UK children are not exposed to lead through their food.

Yours sincerely,

Tim Pye

LEAPP Alliance

Endorsed by:

- Steve Norris as a Member of the LEAPP Alliance.
- Frank Sheppard, Lead Containing Materials Association
- Hesaan Sheridan, Heritage Testing
- Dr Simon Reddy, Lead In The Water
- Dr Caroline Taylor, Senior Research Fellow, University of Bristol
- Dr Ludovica Gazze, Assistant Professor, University of Warwick
- Dr Andrew Turner, Reader in Environmental Science, University of Plymouth
- Professor Erik Millstone, Science Policy Research Unit, University of Sussex
- Dr Jane A Entwistle, Professor of Applied Geochemistry and Health, Northumbria University
- Dr Lindsay Bramwell, Research Fellow in Environment and Health, Northumbria University
- Dr Ashley Mills, Public Health Data Scientist, Centre for Health Services Studies, University of Kent
- Julia Klein, parent