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Mr Paul Perito
Star Scientific, Inc
801 Liberty Way
Chester, VA 23836
USA

8 May 2001

Reference:NFU 18

Dear Mr Perito

Nicotine sweets

I am writing in connection with an article that appeared in the Sunday Times on 6 May, indicating that you are developing a nicotine sweet that may be sold in the UK. I understand from your company's website that this is in fact a compressed tobacco pellet.

From an initial consideration it is the view of the Food Standards Agency that such products may well be classed as foods and accordingly be subject to the provisions of EC Regulation 258/97, governing novel foods and novel food ingredients. Consequently, such products would need to obtain approval under this legislation before they could be sold anywhere within the EU.

The UK will be bringing this development to the attention of the other EU Member States at the next meeting of the competent authorities under Regulation 258/97, which is to be held on 18 May.

I am copying this letter to British American Tobacco and to Mr Deboyser, at the European Commission.

Yours sincerely
Nick Tomlinson
Head of Novel Foods Division