

14th January 2009.

Rt. Hon. Gordon Brown MP,
Prime Minister,
10 Downing Street,
London.
SW1A 2AA

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Dear Prime Minister,

Further to the many letters I have sent to you and other MP's expressing my concern over canned food being available to British shoppers. I enclose two further important pieces of information concerning supplies of tinsplate raw materials.

Over the last two years I have advised you that we would run into distribution problems of basic foods such as baked beans, soup and other canned goods due to the crisis over oil. It requires approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ tonne of oil to manufacture one tonne of tinsplate. As the oil crisis grew last summer I provided you with written proof that tinsplate can manufacturers were running short of tinsplate to manufacture cans and can price increases were imminent. You chose to ignore this information. This supply problem has been temporarily overcome due to worldwide recession and tinsplate is readily available, however prices to can manufacturers have continued to increase.

The Daily Mail dated 3rd December 2008 stated that UK shoppers were paying the highest increases in canned food in Europe. There were annual increases of 124%. In the Canmaker Magazine 28th December 2008 it stated that IMPRESS, who make cans for Heinz Products, had to pay increases of 50% to 80% for tinsplate and were raising prices of their cans starting 1st January 2009. Most tinsplate is imported costing us a fortune.

Based on my simple calculations it could be costing UK shoppers over £1 billion maybe even as high as £2 billion per annum.

Do you have any sense of shame knowing that there is a British engineering designer who, with a little support from your government, could be saving a large proportion of this money for UK shoppers? You choose to support high-cost foreign steel and canning companies importing these goods into the UK penalising UK shoppers. Shoppers are unnecessarily paying £1,000 per tonne or more for imported tinsplate incorporated into those food price increases.

We import tinsplate from China or India to make new cans when we have an abundant supply of ready-made cans at £15 per tonne that could be refurbished and reused without going through the wasteful recycling process. Councils and scrap merchants are having problems getting rid of these cans because of the low return due to recession. This situation could be resolved with a little help from your government within 12-18 months but you choose not to do so. Why are you so anti-British?

TATA Steel are laying off another 2,500 British workers and 3,500 in total in Europe and it won't be long before they close UK steel production altogether. They will then transfer that technology, mostly paid for by British taxpayers to India. You will note no redundancies were announced in India where workers are paid 10% of UK wages and pollution is higher than any other country. We helped them to build their steel mills in the 1960's at the insistence of Westminster politicians whose eyes were full of greed. Now it is rebounding on us.

Making one tonne of new cans from recycled cans uses up to 5 tonnes of each of water, coal and minerals, one tonne of chemicals (?), $\frac{3}{4}$ tonne of oil and produces three tonnes

of CO₂ gas emissions plus other toxic pollutants. They also require enough energy to supply a UK home for two years. Now add the cost of crushing perfectly good cans, transporting them thousands of miles to the Far East to be smelted down and turned into raw material to make cans from perfectly good quality cans we have destroyed. All this can be saved all that but you don't want to know – why? I have nothing against India or Indians they are a very intelligent people. So intelligent they realise just how stupid, greedy and corrupt successive British governments have been for the last forty years.

Most new cans use recycled material but only 25%, the rest is made from virgin material to ensure quality is suitable for making cans. It takes six months to make a recycled or new can. It would take less than ten minutes working time to refurbish one back to pristine condition and two weeks to have it back in the supermarket. It would use 100% of original material and each same can could be refurbished up to ten times increasing savings by ten. We would not use any coal, chemicals, minerals or any measurable amount of energy or oil and there would be no pollution. We are short of oil and energy!!

How can you claim you are supporting the UK shoppers? You are doing nothing to help them, you are penalising them at every opportunity to support those who are deliberately penalising UK shoppers - banks and multinational companies.

When 'peak oil' finally becomes a reality in about three to four years time, metal prices will soar again and we will have further increases and shortages in canned food. By then we may not be able to afford canned food because prices will be so high. MP's are cocooned, totally oblivious to the suffering of British shoppers.

You should be totally ashamed of yourself as our Prime Minister because you are an astonishingly anti-British. I am sure that the majority of UK people will share my opinion.

Finally I enclose two extracts from 'The Long Emergency', a book I suggest you read. It was written in 2003/4 and makes some interesting about Freddie Mac and Fannie May. Mr Darling said recently "that no could have forecast what has happened. I have several reports similar to this. Perhaps if you and the three previous Prime Ministers had not taken so much notice of Mr Greenspan we would be in a better position.

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G. J. Evans (Mr)

Cc. The Independent