Declaration of interests from the Institute of Economic Affairs submitted to the Committee on 5 November 2015:

“Your request has been passed to me by Christopher Snowdon for comment. I confirm that I am happy for this reply to be published, providing, in the interests of transparency, that it is published in full, and read in conjunction with Mr Christopher Snowdon’s declaration to the Committee.

The Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA) is an educational charity. It does not accept any funding from the UK (or any other) government. It accepts donations from individuals, foundations and companies both domestic and foreign in order to pursue its charitable objectives. Respecting the privacy of its donors, the IEA does not place a list of its donors in the public domain. It is a matter for individual donors whether they wish their donation to be public or private – the Institute leaves that entirely to their discretion. This has been its policy of 60 years standing and should not be interpreted as meaning that we do receive donations from food or soft drinks companies.

With regard to our editorial position, the IEA does not accept any earmarked money for commissioned research work from any company. The IEA’s publication activities are supported by a distinguished international Academic Advisory Council and an eminent panel of Honorary Fellows. Together with other academics they review many of our prospective publications. Their comments are passed on anonymously to the authors. This means that our monographs and research papers are subjected to the same rigorous independent refereeing process that is used by leading academic journals.

With these guidelines and protocols in place we are confident that the academic work of the IEA is never compromised by financial gain, fear or favour from the government or any other body, business or institution. We have no qualms receiving money from legitimate tax-paying businesses, from within the food and drink industry or elsewhere, now, or in the future, should they wish to donate to us.

Glynn Brailsford
Director, Creative & Development”