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this afternoon. This is what he said. I think we need to look at this in the same way in the past we have looked at the dangers of smoking and other health-related issues. That is my commitment. We should not be in the business of running things out. But obviously putting extra taxes on things is not something I aim to do. It is something I would rather avoid. There are clarion calls now for something to be done about the growing obesity problem. There was some research recently in the BMJ which looked at Mexico, which has introduced a tax on sugary drinks. They found a 12% reduction in sales. That has been rejected by the British soft drink Association, which said that amounted to just six calories a day. Nevertheless there are growing calls from a lot of medical bodies, from the likes of the Public Health England, which said last year they thought it should be one of a number of measures, and the health select

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committee, which suggested a 20% tax. The childhood obesity strategy is due out. Is that where we could see this? I think there is a real possibility now. Until this moment I would have said they would have rejected it. But actually it has been discussed at all levels of government. It is recognised there is a problem. It is the case that nobody thinks just a sugar tax would work alone but a number of other things have to be done, better exercise for children, teaching them or about diets except. But I think there is a real possibility now that you will find a sugar tax suggestion in the obesity strategy. Victoria McDonald