

Lesley Griffiths AC/AM  
Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd, Ynni a Materion Gwledig  
Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-865  
Ein cyf/Our ref LG/00546/20

Janet Finch-Saunders AM  
Chair of the Petitions Committee

Government.Committee.Business@gov.wales

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March 2020

Dear Janet

Thank you for your letter of 26 February, regarding the petition seeking to ensure that there are plant based options on every public sector menu to protect the rights of vegans.

The Welsh Government recognises that there are health & well-being arguments with respect to the consumption of plant based products. In sourcing produce for menus public sector establishments must take into account a number of considerations such as choice, locally sourced produce and dealing with waste.

People will make better choices when the choices are easier to make and the industry has been quick to respond to consumer demand by bringing more plant based products to market. Establishments take sensible decisions in considering consumer demand for plant based products at individual locations and respond accordingly.

The Welsh Government has established guidelines and regulations for the public sector in relation to nutritional standards, and steps are taken to ensure that all parts of the public sector are aware of their responsibilities in providing for all dietary choices.

These guidelines and regulations are reviewed periodically, for example, the Welsh Government has made a commitment to review the current Healthy Eating in Schools (Nutritional Standards and Requirements) (Wales) Regulations 2013 in light of changes to nutritional recommendations since they were introduced six years ago. We will be considering the latest research and information concerning nutritional standards when undertaking this task, including whether additional guidance needs to be provided for vegan diets.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

We have also recently developed best practice guidance for food and nutrition in care homes for older people, which encourages residents to eat well and have positive health and well-being outcomes. The guidance includes a specific section on catering for vegan diets, highlighting the importance of talking to residents and their families to devise a suitable menu, seeking advice from dietitians if required.

This approach of review and improvement where necessary will allow the relevant guidance to be relevant to the needs of its target cohort and ensure food meeting all nutritional requirements can continue to be provided.

Regards  
Lesley Griffiths

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