



Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-963
Ein cyf/Our ref LG/02589/20

Janet Finch-Saunders MS
Chair, Petitions Committee

18 November 2020

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your letter of 30 October, regarding the petition seeking that supermarkets are required to donate excess food to charity.

The current Covid-19 pandemic has seen the food supply system come under intense pressure, and the Welsh Government recognises there are people in Wales who are particularly vulnerable, facing financial difficulty and needing urgent support.

Reducing food waste remains a priority for the Welsh Government, and we continue to work with the food supply chain to ensure waste is minimised and surplus stock redistributed as necessary.

The food industry as a whole has responded to the increased pressure faced by food banks in a number of ways, through financial support and donation of excess stock. These voluntary, especially during the current pandemic, are to be commended and supported. Welsh Ministers, under the UK Environment Bill, are seeking the powers to mandate the surplus redistribution of food in Wales should circumstances show that businesses were not fulfilling their social responsibility.

Yours Sincerely,

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

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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.