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Y Gweinidog Addysg
Minister for Education

Vaughan Gething AC/AM
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-865
Ein cyf/Our ref KW/06255/19

Janet Finch-Saunders AM
Chair - Petitions committee
National Assembly for Wales
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17 June 2019

Dear Janet

We are writing in response to your letter of 30 May 2019 seeking further clarification regarding the provision of vegetarian and vegan food options in schools and hospitals.

The current legislation¹ does not specify that local authorities or school governing bodies have to provide vegan and vegetarian foods. However, the *Healthy eating in maintained schools* statutory guidance² does provide details on the types of food that can be used for vegetarian and vegan diets. This includes a number of naturally vegetarian and vegan options such as cereals, vegetables, fruit and bread which children are able to choose at breakfast and lunchtimes. In addition, the guidance provides practical advice on the types of food that vegetarian and vegan children should consume to ensure an adequate protein intake and recommends that plant protein is included on the school menu. As this guidance is statutory local authorities would need to have clear and justifiable reasons for not having regard to it.

Local authorities across Wales offer a cold vegetarian option for children at lunch time and parents are able to request a vegan option.

¹ Healthy Eating in Schools (Nutritional Standards and Requirements) (Wales) Regulations 2013

² <https://learning.gov.wales/docs/learningwales/publications/160226-healthy-eating-maintained-schools-en-v2.pdf>

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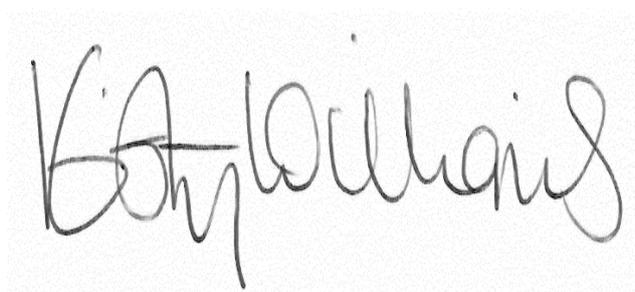
Rydym yn croesawu cael gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

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.

With reference to NHS Wales hospitals, the all-Wales Nutrition and Catering Standards (2011) specify the nutrient content needed to provide for the diverse needs of the hospital population. To support the implementation of these standards, caterers and dieticians across Wales worked together to produce the All Wales Hospital Menu Framework, which was launched at the end of January 2013. The framework consists of a database of 150 standardised, nutritionally assessed recipes and sample menus. The supporting Menu Framework website is populated with the ingredients, product specifications and allergen coding to ensure accessible accurate information. An initial exercise to scope the areas of the all-Wales Nutrition and Catering Standards that need to be refreshed has been carried out and it has been agreed that a refresh of some areas of the standards needs to be carried out. This will include vegetarian and vegan foods.

We hope this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely



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