



Ein cyf/Our ref VG/07406/19

Janet Finch-Saunders AM
Chair
Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
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21 August 2019

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your further letter of 31 July regarding petition no. P-05-865 about Guaranteeing Fully Plant-Based (Vegan) Options on All Public Sector Menus.

You requested some information about the timescale and process for refreshing the All-Wales Nutrition and Catering Standards.

The current hospital standards include provision for vegetarian diet choices for each meal on standard menus and gives advice on how to plan further for vegan diets. When these standards were developed, the Welsh Government appointed a senior dietitian from a health board to lead the work in 2010 and to develop the new standards published in 2011. I feel a similar approach is needed for the refresh of the existing standards.

An initial scoping exercise has been carried out by a health board nutrition and dietetic manager on behalf of a core group of dietitians working together on the All Wales Menu Framework strategic group. This indicates the areas of the All-Wales Nutrition and Catering Standards that require a refresh. As a result, my officials are currently seeking to establish the costs of appointing a dietitian to lead this work and then to identify an individual who is able to move the work forward.

I hope this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vaughan Gething". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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