

My Ref: MM
Date: 16 September 2019



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Janet Finch-Saunders AM
Chair
Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff. CF99 1NA

Email: SeneddPetitions@assembly.wales

Dear Janet,

Re: Petition P-05-865 Guarantee fully plant-based options on every public sector menu to protect the rights of vegans and for our health, the environment and animals

Thank you for your letter, which was sent originally to the Chief Executive, requesting information about the provision of daily vegetarian and vegan meal options at schools and public buildings in Cardiff.

With reference to schools, Cardiff Education Catering provides a service to circa 120 Primary, Secondary, and Special schools across the city. Secondary schools provide a cafeteria style service where pupils are free to make their own choice from a range of foods on offer daily. A selection of vegetarian or plant based options are available daily in all Secondary schools where Cardiff Education Catering provides a service.

In Primary schools, meals are pre-ordered by parents, carers or guardians. A selection of vegetarian options are available, some of which are plant based; however, it cannot be guaranteed that the Primary school offer will be suitable for those following a vegan lifestyle. In this instance, the parents of Primary school pupils are encouraged to discuss individual preferences with Area Managers responsible for Primary school catering operations. In Primary schools in Cardiff, as in many other Local Authorities, jacket potatoes, salad and fresh fruit options are offered daily, which can be taken by those following a plant based diet.

Cardiff Education Catering is working closely with other Local Authorities and the WLGA Food in Schools Coordinator in relation to the provision of a vegan diet in schools. Consideration is also given to The Healthy Eating in Schools (Nutritional Standards and Requirements) (Wales) Regulations 2013, which are a set of nutritional standards that the Education Catering service must meet. The service will continue to monitor the requirements of customers whilst striving to provide a cost effective, nutritionally compliant and customer focused service.

GWEITHIO DROS GAERDYDD, GWEITHIO DROSOCH CHI

Mae'r Cyngor yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg, Saesneg neu'n ddwyieithog. Byddwn yn cyfathrebu â chi yn ôl eich dewis, dim ond i chi roi gwybod i ni pa un sydd well gennych. Ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

WORKING FOR CARDIFF, WORKING FOR YOU

The Council welcomes correspondence in Welsh, English or bilingually. We will ensure that we communicate with you in the language of your choice, as long as you let us know which you prefer. Corresponding in Welsh will not lead to delay.



The Council's Functions Catering service at City Hall, Cardiff Castle, Mansion House, Norwegian Church and St David's Hall offers both vegetarian and vegan dishes on function menus. The service has seen a growing demand for vegetarian food in the last 30 years and, this year, has supplied food to two events that were entirely vegan. It is estimated that the range of vegetarian food provided at functions is currently between 8% and 20%.

At the staff restaurant at City Hall, vegetarian food is always available and the chefs that are based at City Hall are able to cater for any requests by staff for vegan food options. Similarly, at County Hall, the staff canteen, which is operated by Youth Foods, provides a vegan hot food option on a daily basis as part of the vegetarian and vegan food options that are available.

Leisure centres in Cardiff, which are now under the management of GLL, provide gluten free, vegetarian, vegan and halal food options. They are currently reviewing their menus to promote healthy food options, including looking at costings in an effort to bring down the cost of the healthy option when compared to food items such as chips. In addition, Cardiff International White Water Centre also provides both vegetarian and vegan options through its café concession provider.

With reference to the Council's Meals on Wheels service, the food is supplied by Apetito and meets the nutritional standards required by the British Dietetic Association. A vast range of food is available to cater for a variety of special dietary needs, including energy-dense meal options for underweight/malnourished patients, low-sugar and low-fat meals, and meals appropriate for those with food intolerance and allergies, including gluten-free. A selection of vegetarian, vegan, kosher, halal, gluten free, soft and textured modified options are available on request, which can also be provided as part of a bespoke 4-weekly menu to meet an individual's special dietary requirements and cultural needs.

Currently, the Council's Meals on Wheels service only offers a vegetarian, but not a vegan, food option. The Council's food supplier provides a range of individual and multi-portion vegetarian meals that deliver a range of vital nutrients and are free from meat, fish, and their derivatives, including gelatine. However, they may contain products such as vegetable fats or oils, milk, vegetarian cheese (using vegetarian rennet) or eggs. The vegetarian menu options provided by Apetito include some meals that are suitable for a vegan diet. In addition, some of the ethnic meal options provided are also suitable for vegetarians and vegans.

The Council's Cabinet is due to consider a new Cardiff Food Strategy later this year, which aims to promote sustainable food, including local, healthy, affordable and environmentally friendly food options, that will help Cardiff to become a more sustainable food city.

I hope this information is helpful to the Committee in its consideration of the petition submitted by Louise Davies.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter 'M' being particularly large and stylized.

Councillor / Y Cynghorydd Michael Michael
Cabinet Member for Clean Streets, Recycling & Environment
Aelod Cabinet dros Strydoedd Glân, Ailgylchu a'r Amgylchedd

