

Lynne Neagle AS/MS
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Iechyd Meddwl a Llesiant
Deputy Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Russell George MS,
Chair, Health and Social Care Committee
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

June 2022

Dear Russell

Today I am launching two consultations on the Healthy Food Environment and on ending the sale of energy drinks to children. These mark an important step towards delivering our ambitious plans set out within our ten year strategy, Healthy Weight: Healthy Wales

Obesity is one of our most significant generational challenges as a population and is one of the key risk factors for many non-communicable diseases and is one of the greatest causes of years lived in disability. Overweight and obesity affects over 60% of adults and more than one in three children at reception age. We know that to drive change we have to take a multi-component approach. This includes shifting our food environment to one which encourages us to make positive choices for our health.

The Healthy Environment consultation includes three themes including healthier shopping baskets, healthier eating out of the home and healthier local food environments. The proposals we will explore include restricting the promotion of certain food and drink, mandating the display of calories in restaurants and food outlets, and utilising existing planning and licensing powers to consider the density of hot food takeaways. The proposals are intending to utilise a range of secondary powers and policy approaches to help develop change across Wales. The second consultation aims to utilise secondary powers to end the sale of energy drinks to children

These are potentially a first suite of measures which will be monitored for impact over time, alongside a number of approaches and actions set out in our national strategy. Attached is the link to the consultation for your information. We intend to undertake a range of engagement across Wales across the 12 week period, which will consider a range of stakeholder views.

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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.

I would welcome the views and further input and engagement with the Committee on these important consultations. I have also sent a letter to the Chair of the Children, Young People, and Education Committee.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lynne Neagle'.

Lynne Neagle AS/MS

Y Dirprwy Weinidog Iechyd Meddwl a Llesiant
Deputy Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

WRITTEN STATEMENT BY THE WELSH GOVERNMENT

TITLE **Healthy Food Environment Consultations**

DATE **Thursday 9 June**

BY **Lynne Neagle MS, Deputy Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing**

Today, I am launching two consultations about healthy food environments and ending the sale of energy drinks to children and young people under 16. These mark an important step towards delivering our ambitious plans set out in our 10-year strategy *Healthy Weight: Healthy Wales*.

Obesity is one of the most significant challenges we face as a population and is one of the key risk factors in many non-communicable diseases and is one of the greatest causes of the number of years lived in disability.

Overweight and obesity affects more than 60% of adults and more than one in three children at reception age. Early results from studies conducted in a number of countries suggest the prevalence of overweight and obesity has increased in children and adolescents during the pandemic.

To drive positive change we have to take a multi-pronged approach. This includes changing our wider food environment to one which both encourages and makes it easier for us to make positive choices for our health. A regional report on obesity by the World Health Organisation, which was launched this month, makes it clear that “efforts to prevent obesity need to consider the wider determinants of the disease, and policy options should move away from approaches that focus on individuals and address the structural drivers of obesity”.

We want to create an environment across Wales where the healthy choice is the easy choice.

The healthy food environment consultation focuses on three themes – healthier shopping baskets; healthier eating out-of-the-home and healthier local food environments. The proposals we are asking people to consider, include restricting the promotion of certain foods and drink; mandating the display of calories in restaurants and food outlets and using existing planning and licensing powers to consider the density of hot food takeaways in a particular area.

We want to use our existing powers and policy approaches to develop change across Wales.

The second consultation aims to use existing powers to end the sale of energy drinks to children and young people under 16.

My officials will engage with a range of stakeholders to discuss the proposals and capture in-depth insight and feedback. This will include gathering opinions from the public and from specific focus groups to ensure we hear from and gather differing views. We will also hold specific industry and stakeholder engagement events and will put in place approaches to ensure we hear directly from children and young people from across Wales.

Attached is the link to the consultations:

[Healthy Food Environment Consultation](#)

[Energy Drinks Consultation](#)