

Lesley Griffiths

Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales, and Trefnydd

8 February 2023

Dear Lesley,

### Food (Wales) Bill

On 25 January the Committee **took evidence** from representatives of food and drink producers and processors on the **Food (Wales) Bill** (the Bill). In a response to a question around your comments that the Bill could be resource consuming and bureaucratic Andy Richardson from the Food and Drink Wales Industry Board **suggested** before legislation is introduced, Welsh Government Departments should be challenged to show how they are delivering against the legislation's objectives.

Members thought this suggestion was interesting and would like to incorporate the approach into our scrutiny of the Bill. As such, Members would like to undertake an exercise using the food goals in the Bill to understand how current cross-departmental Welsh Government policy is already achieving the Bill's aims.

As you will be aware the Bill sets out two different types of food goals. The Bill's **Explanatory Memorandum** (EM) sets out that the primary food goal is the overarching goal of providing affordable, healthy, and economically, environmentally and socially sustainable food for the people of Wales. The EM sets out that the secondary food goals "underpin the primary food goal and cover specific areas including: Economic well-being, Health and social, Education, Environment and Food waste."

The Bill includes a table with a list of the secondary food goals and a description for each:

Goal	Description
Economic well-being	<p>Creating new economic opportunities through promotion of locally produced food.</p> <p>Promoting sustainable economic, social and community development.</p> <p>Encouraging better links between food producers, processors and consumers.</p>
Health and social	<p>Reducing malnutrition, food poverty and food insecurity.</p> <p>Reducing obesity.</p> <p>Encouraging equitable distribution of healthy and sustainable food within communities.</p> <p>Promoting the social well-being benefits of food, for example through community growing and allotments.</p> <p>Promoting the importance of consuming healthy food for improving physical and mental health and well-being.</p>
Education	<p>Increasing the quality and accessibility of educational provision on food-related issues.</p> <p>Developing food skills to ensure better, healthier diets and well-being.</p>
Environment	<p>Lessening environmental impacts of food production, processing and consumption.</p> <p>Enhancing and regenerating the natural environment through food production.</p> <p>Restoring and maintaining biodiversity and habitats through food production.</p> <p>Promoting a food system that mitigates and adapts to climate change, and minimises Wales' global environmental footprint.</p>
Food waste	<p>Reducing food waste across the food system, including by food producers, processors and consumers.</p>



Please can you set out how each Welsh Government department is delivering against the Bill's secondary food goals. Whilst I understand we are asking the Government to undertake a wide ranging piece of cross departmental work you will also be aware we are given very limited time to carry out legislative scrutiny. As such we would very much welcome a response ahead of our session with the Minister on 16 February and accept this means the response may be very high level. If that is not feasible I would be grateful if you could respond by 3 March as this would give us time to consider your response and incorporate it into stage one report of the Bill.

Yours sincerely



Paul Davies MS

Chair: Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg | We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.