

Lynne Neagle AS/MS
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Addysg
Cabinet Secretary for Education



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1452
Ein cyf/Our ref LN/05453/24

Jack Sargeant MS
Chair - Petitions committee
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

petitions@senedd.wales

27 June 2024

Dear Jack,

Petition P-06-1452 Meat-free Monday in every school in Wales

Thank you for your letter dated 23 May 2024 regarding the petition submitted by Manon Rebeca Bellin Thompson.

The petition is calling for a meat-free Monday in every school in Wales and states the reason being 'for environmental reasons, and for the welfare of animals. It reduces your carbon footprint and saves the lives of animals. Additionally, it takes 2,350 litres of water to create one beef burger, so this will save a load of water.'

Our Food in Schools offer is underpinned by the Healthy Eating in Schools (Nutritional Standards and Requirements (Wales) Regulations) 2013. These set out the types of food and drink that may be provided during the school day and define the nutrient content of school lunches. All food provided in maintained schools (nursery, primary and secondary settings) including all Free School Meals, should adhere to these regulations.

Local Authorities have discretion to design their own menus, and must ensure they are with compliant with the regulations. Most local authorities use a three-week menu cycle and provide a main hot meal choice, vegetarian/vegan options, or a choice of jacket potato, with a dessert. Many local authorities have days when meat is not included on the menu.

We acknowledge that vegetarian and vegan diets are a choice that parents and young people can make, and we provide advice to local authorities on how to cater for these diets within the statutory guidelines.

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
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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.

As part of the roll-out of Universal Primary Free School Meals, we are working with partners to increase the supply of Welsh food and drink products featured within school meals. This supports and shortens local supply chains, reducing carbon emissions, and strengthening the foundational economy.

The Welsh Government has made a commitment to undertake a review of the Healthy Eating in Schools Regulations to consider the latest scientific research and recommendations concerning nutritional standards. Preparation work, to support this review is already underway. We see this as an important tool to support our efforts to reduce child obesity levels in Wales.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Lynne Neagle', written in a cursive style.

Lynne Neagle AS/MS

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