

Sarah Murphy AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Iechyd Meddwl a Llesiant
Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1531
Ein cyf/Our ref SM/00269/25

Carolyn Thomas MS
Chair
Petitions committee

petitions@senedd.wales

08 July 2025

Dear Carolyn,

Thank you for your letter about Petition P-06-1531 Mandate Comprehensive and Specific Food Labelling to Support Dietary Needs and Allergies.

Living with a food allergy or intolerance can place additional burdens on people and it is important they should have access to clear and accurate information.

The Food Standards Agency (FSA) is responsible for food safety, including allergen labelling, in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The FSA in Wales and Northern Ireland are also responsible for general food labelling.

All food businesses are under a legal obligation to provide information about the presence of the 14 regulated allergens when they are used as ingredients in food. These were chosen based on their prevalence in causing allergic reactions and the likely severity of these reactions. The selection was informed by scientific research and clinical data. Potatoes are not one of the 14 regulated allergens and, even when they are included in foods as “starches”, their presence is not required to be declared. Food businesses can, however, voluntarily provide this information.

The FSA recognises that for people sensitive to ingredients not included in this list of 14 regulated allergens, it is harder to identify and to avoid such foods. It routinely revises its allergen labelling guidance through expert evaluations and stakeholder consultations. For example, revisions to allergen labelling best practices were made in March 2025, incorporating feedback from stakeholders and refining precautionary allergen labelling approaches. These updates reflect the FSA’s commitment to reviewing allergen labelling regulations in response to emerging food safety concerns and consumer needs.

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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.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S. Murphy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "S" and a long, sweeping underline.

Sarah Murphy AS/MS

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