

Huw Irranca-Davies MS

Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change
and Rural Affairs

20 October 2025

Dear Huw,

**Follow-up questions from the committee meeting held on 24 September 2025 –
Food Processing**

Thank you again for attending the Committee evidence session on 24 September for our inquiry into Food Processing. As discussed at the close of the session, there were several questions focussing on public procurement not reached in time frame, which the Committee would appreciate a written answer to. In its discussions of your evidence following the session, the Committee also identified a couple of follow-up questions, included below.

Public procurement of Welsh food and drink

- You highlight the Procurement Act and Social Partnership and Public Procurement Act which aims to “support local supply chains to increase the amount of Welsh food and drink purchased.” We understand the Welsh Government is developing guidance to support the latter Act. When will the guidance be published?
- Stakeholders say they want clarity and support on how to implement the new requirements. How will the Welsh Government work with contracting authorities to help them maximise the potential benefits brought by the new legislation?
- Your paper draws attention to initiatives in Anglesey and Caerphilly to increase the amount of Welsh food on school menus. It also acknowledges the challenge of scaling



successful pilots regionally and nationally. What is the Welsh Government doing to spread good practice across Wales?

Meat Consumption

During the course of this inquiry, the Committee has heard evidence – particularly from Jose Peralta of Hybu Cig Cymru – relating to the contradiction in the reduction in livestock numbers against the rates of meat consumption. The Committee has heard that there is currently no indication that the rate of meat consumption is going to reduce at anywhere near the rate of expected destocking levels. Understandably, this causes concern surrounding Wales' commitment to reach its net-zero targets as well as the impact on Welsh farms, since this situation will realistically lead to a substitution of local low-carbon meat with imported produce which has a higher carbon footprint. The Committee would therefore like to know whether the Welsh Government acknowledges these clashing priorities, and to understand what it plans to do to address these concerns.

We would be grateful to receive a response to these questions by 14 November 2025.

Yours sincerely,



Andrew RT Davies MS

Chair: Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English