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Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Addysg
Cabinet Secretary for Education



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Buffy Williams MS
Chair of Children, Young People and
Education Committee

Peter Fox MS
Chair of Health and Social Care
Committee

Mike Hedges MS
Chair of Legislation, Justice and
Constitution Committee

12 November 2025

Dear Committee Chairs,

I am writing to you to provide an update on The Healthy Eating in Schools (Nutritional Standards and Requirements) (Maintained Primary Schools) (Wales) Regulations 2025 ('2025 Regulations'). Ahead of our Regulations being laid in December 2025, I wanted to update you on the findings of the consultation and next steps.

On 2 October, I published the [Written Statement](#), this outlined the Summary of Responses to the Healthy Eating in Schools consultation, which received over 2,700 responses from learners, parents, educators, health professionals, local authorities, and other stakeholders demonstrating strong engagement and a shared commitment to improving school food standards in Wales.

My officials have been analysing all consultation responses and have reconvened the multiagency task and finish groups to advise and test on further policy thinking.

As an overview, the 2025 Regulations will amend the standards and requirements relating to food and drink to be provided in nursery and primary schools to:

- Offer more fruit and vegetables to help Welsh children get their five-a-day.
- Provide more wholegrains because evidence suggests Welsh children aren't getting enough fibre.
- Limit pastry, sweetened baked goods and desserts, and fried foods based on the latest dietary advice.

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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.

- Introduce two different energy and nutrient standards for the average school lunch based on age group to help reduce food waste.
- Reduce processed meat and limit processed alternatives to fish and meat which can be high in salt and saturated fat.
- Retain red meat in moderation to ensure children enjoy its nutritional benefits without overconsumption.

In addition, the 2025 Regulations will amend the Healthy Eating in Schools (Nutritional Standards and Requirements) (Wales) Regulations) 2013 (“the 2013 Regulations”) to remove all references to nursery schools and primary schools so that the 2013 Regulations will then continue to apply to secondary schools.

As I stated within the consultation, the food in school landscape is very different in secondary schools and more work is required before a review of the secondary school provisions can take place. In the interim, to inform such a review, my officials are considering the evidence gathered from the call for evidence (as part of the consultation), work is also underway to gather data and better understand the eating habits of secondary learners, and evidence on secondary provision is being gathered by piloting different approaches to healthy eating in secondary schools in volunteering local authorities. I anticipate these efforts will provide a sound policy base for a review in the future. I am committed to reviewing the regulations as they apply to secondary schools, however, due to the complexity and time available to me, it has not been possible to undertake this work during the current Senedd term.

I would like to offer the Committees an opportunity to receive technical briefing from my officials should your respective Committees consider this helpful once the 2025 Regulations have been laid in December. This technical briefing can cover what the purpose of the Regulations are; the provisions contained within the Regulations; and how the Regulations have been designed with partners and informed by the consultation (including children and young people).

I hope this information is useful and look forward to hearing from you should you wish to attend a technical briefing.

Yours sincerely,



Lynne Neagle AS/MS

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