



Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-878
Ein cyf/Our ref KS/06112/19

Janet Finch-Saunders AM
Assembly Member for Aberconwy
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26 April 2019

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your letter of 8 April on behalf of the Petitions Committee urging the Welsh Government to encourage all supermarkets and retailers to have doors on all their fridges and freezers, and so reduce our national carbon footprint, electricity consumption and pave a way for a greener Wales. I am replying due to my portfolio responsibilities.

We have made decarbonisation a priority area in 'Prosperity for All' because we acknowledge its great potential contribution to long-term prosperity and well-being. However, Government action alone is not enough to meet the challenges of climate change. We need individuals, communities and businesses to change the way they live and operate.

In March the First Minister launched our first Government-wide statutory decarbonisation plan. Prosperity for All: A Low Carbon Wales sets out one hundred policies and proposals, across all sectors of our economy, to meet our current carbon budget and set a longer term decarbonisation trajectory for Wales.

There is existing legislation to encourage the food retail sector to measure, report and take action on its energy and climate impacts. The UK Government's Climate Change Levy and Climate Change Agreements are important levers for incentivising energy efficiency in businesses, including supermarkets and retailers, and achieving Wales's emissions reduction targets. The Levy is a tax on energy delivered to businesses in the UK, while the Agreements are opt-in schemes where participants receive a discount from the Levy in return for meeting pre-agreed energy efficiency improvement targets.

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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.

Larger businesses are also subject to mandatory reporting requirements under the Streamlined Energy and Carbon Reporting scheme, introduced as a replacement for the reporting element of the Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency Scheme as of April 2019. The scheme places a requirement for annual public disclosure of UK energy use and carbon emissions on over 11,000 organisations. The reporting covers electricity, gas and transport fuel use and the associated greenhouse gas emissions, and is intended to stimulate Board level scrutiny and oversight of efficiency measures as well as transparency through public reporting.

Additionally, the Welsh Government supports the Courtauld Commitment 2025, a voluntary, pre-competitive initiative across the food and drink supply chain. At its heart is a ten-year commitment to identify priorities, develop solutions and implement changes to cut the carbon, water and waste associated with food & drink by at least one-fifth in 10 years. I am supportive of this method of identifying and focussing effort where it has the greatest impact. Where in-store refrigeration is identified as a priority area, retailers are including upgrades within their store refurbishment plans. WRAP will report on achievements against the specific 2025 targets later in 2019 comparing 2018 data with the baseline year of 2015.

Officials are actively engaged with the Welsh Retail Consortium and have raised this issue with them. The Welsh Retail Consortium are working with their members to address the issue of energy efficiency in shops and supermarkets, and are active members of the Courtauld Commitment 2025 and would be happy to provide a response to highlight action undertaken to date.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken Skates', written in a cursive style.

Ken Skates AC/AM

Gweinidog yr Economi a Thrafnidiaeth
Minister for Economy and Transport