

Our ref: JP/RB/lab

1<sup>st</sup> October 2019

Janet Finch-Saunders AM  
Chair of the Petitions Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

Dear Ms Finch-Saunders

**Petition P-05-865 Guarantee fully plant-based options on every public sector menu to protect the rights of vegans and for our health, the environment and animals**

Thank you for your recent request for the Health Board to comment on the above petition received regarding Vegan options on every public sector menu.

Aneurin Bevan University Health Board caters for vegans in all our hospitals. Our menus offer a daily range of vegan choices. In providing a daily choice of options, we are catering for vegans as we do for those on other diets or those with specific religious or ethical requirements.

Vegan staff, visitors and patients have been consulted with regard to the design of the menu and the choices included. The Health Board's vegan menu for inpatients was last revised and improved in May 2019.

To comply with the law, the Health Board seeks to ensure that there is no discrimination by offering a daily vegan choice at mealtimes. This is provided by way of a separate menu for those who wish to eat vegan in our hospitals. Welsh hospitals are governed by mandatory standards, one of which is that 3 hot choices must be offered at each main meal. The current standard hospital menu used across the Health Board does offer vegan choices on

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some days as part of these menus (in addition to a full separate vegan menu) as one of these 3 hot choices. A full separate vegan menu will always be available for any patient who wishes to eat vegan choices on all hospitals.

I hope the above response is helpful to you. If you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judith Paget". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Judith Paget**  
**Chief Executive/Prif Weithredwr**