

Lesley Griffiths AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref
Ein cyf/Our ref LF/LG/0204/12

Mark Drakeford AM
Chair, Health and Social Care Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

18 June 2012

Dear Mark,

FOOD HYGIENE RATING (WALES) BILL

Thank you for your letter of 31 May regarding the Food Hygiene Rating (Wales) Bill. I am grateful to the Committee for its work in considering the Bill, and for the opportunity to provide further information in relation to the provisions of the Bill to make subordinate legislation.

I have carefully considered the Committee's request to publish the draft regulations earlier than the anticipated completion of the Stage 2 proceedings. You will be aware from the timetable agreed with the Business Committee that this is expected to be in November 2012.

Whilst I am extremely sympathetic to the Committee's request, to bring forward the publication of a formal consultation on these regulations (which would be the necessary outcome of publishing the draft regulations) would divert resources away from other necessary work relating to this Bill and other legislative priorities within the Department for Health, Social Services and Children. I am also concerned that it may cause duplication of consultation if the relevant powers in the Bill change in any way at Stage 2 of the Assembly's consideration. I would not want confusion to arise for stakeholders, or for stakeholders to be overburdened in preparing consultation responses. We know that stakeholders are very keen to see this legislation work, and take a great deal of time and effort in their responses to consultation in this area.

However I am also very mindful of the Committee's remit to consider whether the Bill contains a reasonable balance between the powers on the face of the Bill and the powers conferred on Welsh Ministers to make regulations. In order to assist the Committee's deliberations I enclose a detailed policy statement on my proposals for the content of the regulations (at Annex A).

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
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Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)

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This policy statement reflects the basis on which the development and preparation of draft regulations is being undertaken. It will also be used by my officials to work with stakeholders in the development of the drafting of the regulations prior to publication for consultation.

Regards

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

Lesley Griffiths AC / AM

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Minister for Health and Social Services