

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

14th August 2019

Dear Ms 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

I write in response to your letter to Will Godfrey, Chief Executive of 5th August 2019 regarding the above petition.

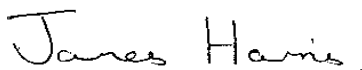
The current contractual arrangements in Newport schools operate in accordance with the Welsh Government Guidance on Healthy Eating that stipulates the requirement for a vegetarian main meal option to be available every day in every school.

The new service model currently being designed and planned for implementation in September 2020 will require the successful provider to work with the schools to make significant improvements to the healthy eating options. This will include the offer of more plant based meals, through consultation and menu innovation.

Young people are very engaged with the issues of climate change and understand the impact of human behaviour on the environment and there are already schools who have introduced 'vegetarian day'. Therefore, the opportunity to expand plant based menu options as a consensual choice does exist and the new service model will ensure that the provider develops the menu to reflect this new awareness

In relation to Local Authority care homes and the homes that we contract with, the decision around what is eaten lies with the residents as it is their home and their choice. We take great care to engage both the adults and children living in our homes to ensure that they are able to choose the food they would like to eat. Needless to say, any vegetarian and vegan requirements must be accommodated and people living in our homes are engaged in menu planning to ensure their wants and needs are met.

Yn gywir/Yours sincerely



James Harris
Cyfarwyddwr Strategol – Pobl / Strategic Director - People