

Jeremy Miles AS/MS
Gweinidog y Gymraeg ac Addysg
Minister for Education and Welsh Language



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref JMEWL/00492/22

Rachel Evans
Countryside Alliance

rachel-evans@countryside-alliance.org

25 April 2022

Dear Rachel,

Thank you for your letter of 4th March and for sharing your concerns around the recent media reports that schools in Wales have been lobbied to ban meat from being served. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding to you. This is not a matter that has arisen in our dealings with the WLGA and our Food in Schools Network to date, however we will keep a watching brief on the issue.

I can assure you that completely removing the meat option from the school lunch menu is not something the Welsh Government supports. We recognise that the food and drink provided in schools can make a positive contribution towards giving children and young people a healthy balanced diet, and can also encourage them to develop good eating habits. This balanced diet includes a wide and varied range of foods, including sustainably reared red meat.

All local authorities and schools in Wales are required to comply with the [Healthy Eating in Schools \(Nutritional Standards and Requirements\) \(Wales\) Regulations 2013](#), which set out the types of food and drink that should be provided during the school day. In addition, the accompanying statutory guidance [Healthy eating in maintained schools](#), provides practical advice on the types of food and drink that can be used. Meat is one of the food categories included within this guidance. It is at the discretion of the Local Authority to plan their menus as long as they are adhering to the guidelines.

Nevertheless, we do acknowledge that vegetarian and vegan diets are a choice that parents can make for their children and provide advice to Local Authorities on how to cater for these diets within the statutory guidelines.

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0300 0604400

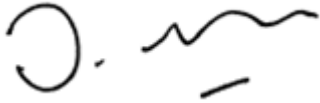
Gohebiaeth.Jeremy.Miles@llyw.cymru
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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

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.

As part of the implementation of Universal Primary Free School Meals (UPFSM), the Welsh Government has made a commitment to undertake a review of the Healthy Eating in Schools Regulations in order to incorporate the latest scientific research and recommendations concerning nutritional standards. Engagement and consultation with stakeholders across the agricultural sector will be an important element of this review and we look forward to working with you and colleagues within the Countryside Alliance to ensure that the food offered to children at schools is of the best quality and nutritional value possible.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large 'J' followed by a series of wavy lines and a short horizontal stroke at the end.

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