

Huw Lewis AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Addysg a Sgiliau
Minister for Education and Skills



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-518
Ein cyf/Our ref HL/02031/13

William Powell AM
AM for Mid & West Wales
Chair Petitions committee
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

2 January 2014

committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

Dear William

Thank you for your letter of 16 December 2013 in which you enclose a petition on the provision of free school meals.

We believe in providing free school meals to those who need them most and encourage those eligible to take them up. Free school meals are an important aspect of our anti-poverty agenda and a means of reducing health inequalities due to poor diet.

It is important to remember that Wales led the way in the UK by introducing free breakfast in primary schools in 2004; a scheme which is now well established. Due to recent changes in legislation, local authorities now have a statutory duty to provide free school breakfasts to all children of primary school age.

Furthermore, in September this year, the Welsh Government introduced the Healthy Eating in Schools (Nutritional Standards and Requirements) (Wales) Regulations 2013, which set out the types of food which can and cannot be provided during the school day, and defines the nutrient content of school lunches. The Welsh Government has also recently amended legislation which allows local authorities to charge flexibly for school lunches.

With these changes, we aim to provide free meals to those most in need, allow local authorities the freedom to price their meals more competitively and ensure the food provided is nutritionally balanced.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Huw Lewis'.

Huw Lewis AC / AM
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