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Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd, Ynni a Materion Gwledig  
Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-865  
Ein cyf/Our ref LG/06123/19

Janet Finch-Saunders AM  
Chair - Petitions committee

Government.Committee.Business@gov.wales

11 June 2019

Dear Janet

Thank you for your letter of 30 May, regarding the petition seeking to ensure that there are plant based options on every public sector menu and to consider this in light of the declaration of a climate emergency by the Welsh Government.

All sectors will need to play a role in addressing issues that relate to climate change, and the food industry is no exception to this. There is a rapidly growing range of vegetarian and vegan products on the market, the industry being quick to respond to consumer demand.

With regard to the food and drink available at public sector establishments it is the management of those places to decide their policy when directly providing or contracting out catering and refreshments. In doing so, sensible decisions will take account of consumer demand for vegetarian and vegan food within the context of what is practical at that facility.

I am pleased to inform you that the Welsh Government's own catering contract across nine offices is an exemplar. It provides a wide range of plant-based food and beverage options. Fresh fruits, grains and seeds are available on salad bars and hot dishes are made using ingredients such as chickpeas, quinoa, tofu and lentils. Soya and coconut milk are offered as alternatives to Welsh skimmed or semi-skimmed milk and vegan hot chocolate has recently been introduced. The Welsh Government's catering contractor also works closely with their company nutritionists to ensure healthier, plant-based and vegan options are being made available for the customers and are looking to introduce a selection of plant-based cold drinks, yoghurts and desserts.

Regards  
Lesley

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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.