

Janet Finch-Saunders AM/AC
Chair Cadeirydd
29 Madoc Street
Llandudno
Conwy LL30 2TL



1st July 2019

By email: SeneddPetitions@assembly.wales.

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your letter to Steve Murrells dated 14 June 2019 regarding Petition P-05-878, 'Shut the Door on Wasted Energy'. Steve has asked me to reply on his behalf as I am the Managing Director of Property for the Co-op.

The Co-op was one of the first retailers' to start fitting doors to our fridges, back in 2013. In fact, the Environmental Investigation Agency report referenced in your letter cites the Co-op as a 'Green Cooling Leader'. We're proud that our refit and maintenance schedules allow us to review how our refrigeration is performing, with our latest big development being the phasing in of natural refrigerants across our estate. This will drive some meaningful environmental carbon reductions that show our commitment in this area.

We put doors on the majority of our fridges in our stores in Wales, and indeed across the UK. We don't place doors on all our fridges, however, because of the way that our customers want to be able to shop – for example, fridges for sandwiches, milk, soft drinks and fruit and vegetables.

That said, in our larger stores where we have the space for roll in milk cages, we have now introduced doors onto this category. This is because the chiller used is much larger, and customers shop this category in a different way compared to how they shop in a convenience store. The store aisle width also allows us to introduce hinged doors which wouldn't be possible in our smaller convenience stores. As you can see, we carefully consider the types of fridges used, taking into account the products they will hold, the expectations of our customers and the space available, as well as environmental considerations.

We would also note that combining technology performance with the real time optimisation managed by our Technical Services Bureau, we believe that the quoted 10,000kWh saving through the installation of fridge doors for a typical 2.5m mineral fridge is overstated. Our experience is that the saving would typically amount to less than 2000 kWh.

Reducing the resources we use is a key priority for the Co-op and we don't stop at considering doors on fridges. We have optimised energy performance in our stores through inclusion of technologies such as:

- Shelf edge technology (aerofoils)
- LED lighting
- Electronically commutated (EC) fans which have been independently verified and have reduced energy use by up to 20%

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1 Angel Square, Manchester, M60 0AG. Reg No 525R

We are committed fully to supporting the effort to reduce the environmental impact of supermarkets and other retailers. However, there is other positive action that we have already taken – and innovation that we have planned – that we believe will achieve this objective through a more holistic approach rather than simply focussing on installing doors to all our fridges.

I hope this letter provides you and the Petitions Committee with the information that you require.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'DR', written over a light grey rectangular background.

David Roberts

Managing Director – Co-op Property

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