

Date/Dyddiad: 21 May 2008

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VALE of GLAMORGAN



Kirsty Williams AM  
Committee Chair  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

Dear Kirsty

**Re: Consultation – Proposed Healthy Eating in Schools Measure Committee**

Thank you for your letter of 16 May regarding the above. I would not support the proposed measure for healthy eating in Wales for the following reasons.

Such a measure would not be in line with the agenda for 'reducing the burdens' on local government. It will not achieve its overall purpose, as the priorities for local authorities should continue to be focused on improving educational outcomes for pupils and on the quality of the school buildings. Such a measure would detract from these more pressing concerns.

The Vale's school catering service already achieves excellent nutritional standards, and our schools have focused on winning the hearts and minds of both pupils and their parents in leading healthier lifestyles. This is the more sustainable route to change eating habits. Imposed nutritional standards will only cause the uptake of school meals to reduce further, with a corresponding increase in packed lunches, which can be of a lower quality in terms of nutrition. Therefore the measure may have an unintended adverse outcome on nutrition.

You will also have received a reply from my colleague Bryan Jeffreys which sets out his concerns from a service perspective.

Yours sincerely



John Maitland Evans  
Chief Executive

Copy to: **Bryan Jeffreys, Director of Learning and Development**

Correspondence is welcomed in Welsh or English/Croesawir Goheblaeth yn y Gymraeg neu yri Saesneg