

Mark Drakeford AC / AM  
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol  
Minister for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-663  
Ein cyf/Our ref MD/00705/16

William Powell AM  
Chair - Petitions Committee  
Ty Hywel  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

29 March 2016

Dear William,

Thank you for your letter of 29 February on behalf of the Petitions Committee regarding Petition P-04-663 – Food in Welsh Hospitals.

The Welsh Audit Office report was published on 3 February 2016, a copy of which can be accessed from the following link:

<http://www.wao.gov.uk/publication/cwm-taf-university-health-board-hospital-catering-and-patient-nutrition-follow-review>.

My officials will work with the health boards across Wales to ensure any recommendations are implemented.

I agree with the suggestion about more training and guidance being useful for NHS staff in canteen departments. The All Wales Menu Framework group is in the process of developing a core training module based on current good practice for catering and ward-based staff who prepare and serve meals to patients, which will ensure all staff undergo the same standards of training across Wales.

As I mentioned in my previous correspondence, the "varied arrangements" in hospitals refers to the methods of service delivery, which varies as a result of differences in the age, size and type of the current hospital infrastructure in Wales. As new hospitals are built this will enable a more consistent approach to catering.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
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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.

However, ultimately it is the health boards who have overall operational responsibility for the services they provide and are best placed to ensure their employees can deal appropriately with their patients' allergies and dietary needs.

I was very pleased to note the petitioner will meet with a representative from Cardiff and Vale University Health Board. This is an excellent opportunity to share experiences, opinions and hopefully will prove beneficial for all concerned.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in grey ink that reads "Mark".

**Mark Drakeford AC / AM**

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