



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref 15796

20 January 2022

Dear

ATISN 15796

Information requested

Thank you for your request which I received on 19 December 2021. You asked for:

1. Information showing whether or not organic food is to be sourced for children in receipt of free school meals;
2. The number of schools in Wales that have an allotment or access to an allotment;
3. The number of schools that have a kitchen that is accessible to or used by pupils; and
4. Copies of the relevant part of the school curriculum in Wales that sets out any requirements to teach organic horticulture and organic cooking.

Our response

In respect of the information about the sourcing of organic food in school meals, the Welsh Government holds no information of this type. More generally, the food and drink provided in all local authority maintained schools must meet [The Healthy Eating in Schools \(Nutritional Standards and Requirements\) \(Wales\) Regulations 2013](#) ('Regulations'). These Regulations are based on the previous Appetite for Life guidelines and form part of the wider [Healthy Eating in Schools \(Wales\) Measure 2009](#). The Welsh Government has produced [Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities and Governing Bodies](#) to assist with the implementation of the above legislation.

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir 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.

Crown Buildings, Cathays Park, Cardiff, CF10 3NQ
Adeiladau'r Goron, Parc Cathays, Caerdydd CF10 3NQ

Following a search of our paper and electronic records, I have established that the information you require in response to questions 2 and 3 are not held by the Welsh Government.

The Welsh Government holds no information showing any requirement to teach organic horticulture and organic cooking as part of the school curriculum in Wales. However, under current curriculum arrangements, the [Programme of Study for Science](#) is clear that learners should be given opportunities to study the interdependence of living organisms, and this includes the environmental and human factors that affect what grows, and the local environment.

From September 2022, there will be a new Curriculum for Wales. The new curriculum allows for a broadening of learning, supporting schools to be more flexible in their approaches, and provides education leaders and practitioners with greater agency, enabling them to be innovative and creative. It gives schools a clear framework but also gives them the flexibility to meet the needs of their specific learners in local communities. A key part of that flexibility will be enabling practitioners to decide which topics, subjects and resources will best contribute to their learners' understanding. It would therefore be inappropriate to be more prescriptive about the teaching of horticulture and organic cooking in the Curriculum for Wales.

Next steps

If you are dissatisfied with the Welsh Government's handling of your request, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to the Welsh Government's Freedom of Information Officer at: Information Rights Unit, Welsh Government, Cathays Park, Cardiff, CF10 3NQ or Email: Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales

Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number above.

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office,
Wycliffe House,
Water Lane,
Wilmslow,
Cheshire,
SK9 5AF

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely