

2 May 2023

Dear

Access to Information (ATI) Serial Number: **17363** - primary school children to be given the chance to eat edible insects.

### **Information requested**

Thank you for your request which I received on 3 April 2023. You asked for details about primary school children to be given the chance to eat edible insects in particular;

- 1) How was this funded?
- 2) What was the percentage take-up of children who wanted to eat insects in the four schools
- 3) Following this trial, are there plans to have the eating or insects made available to any other schools in Wales

### **Our response**

Regarding questions 1 & 2: Following a search of our paper and electronic records, it has been established that the information you have requested is not held by the Welsh Government.

The Welsh Government has not funded or commissioned any research or activity relating to the eating of insects in primary schools.

We are aware that attention to the topic of eating insects arose out of a study by Cardiff University where the focus was exploring children's attitudes to environmental issues and how this might be translated into their views on what foods they eat. To properly contextualise the reference to 'edible insects', fuller details of this study are available in the link attached: [Young people, alternative proteins and pedagogies for sustainable futures - Research - Cardiff University](#)

Regarding question 3: All local authorities and schools in Wales are required to adhere to the [Healthy Eating in Schools \(Nutritional Standards and Requirements\) \(Wales\) Regulations 2013](#). These set out the type of food and drink which may be provided during the school day. The Regulations are accompanied by the [Healthy eating in maintained schools statutory guidance](#). This guidance is statutory, and local authorities are required to adhere to it. The Welsh Government has no plans to encourage local authorities to serve school meals containing insects.

### **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](mailto: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,