



Our ref: WQ88628

Mike Hedges MS
Senedd Constituency Member for Swansea East

Mike.Hedges@senedd.wales

25 July 2023

Dear Mike,

Thank you for your recent written question asking me if: *"...hospitals in Wales buy meat that contain nitrates or nitrites, of which there is growing evidence internationally implicating them in the development of cancer"*.

There has been a decrease in the amount of processed meat on hospital in-patient menus over the past 5-10 years in recognition of the evidence.

Items such as ham, bacon and sausages still feature because they are popular and palatable items for some patients, thus supporting their nutritional intake. When a processed meat item is offered on a menu, it is usually one of a number of meal choices.

The NHS All-Wales Menu Framework groups continue to review patient menu development in light of evidence, meeting nutritional standards, patients' food preferences, and dietary needs and choice, as well as balancing with cost.

Yours sincerely,

Eluned Morgan AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Gohebiaeth.Eluned.Morgan@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Eluned.Morgan@gov.wales

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.