



Janet Finch-Saunders MS
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09 August 2021

Dear Janet,

Please find below the answer to your Written Question.

Janet Finch-Saunders (Aberconwy): Will the Minister state why The Food and Drink Wales Retail Plan does not include the objective of improving the shelf-life of Welsh lamb? (WQ83061)

Lesley Griffiths: The Food and Drink Wales Retail Plan aims to support the Welsh Government aspiration that the turnover value for the food and drink industry in Wales grows proportionally more than the UK as a whole.

The Plan has eight key objectives including establishing strong Wales focussed partnership programmes with major food retailers and foodservice providers, supporting a stream of entrepreneurial food and drink businesses and accelerate the growth of companies with a turnover of more than £10m in the retail sector. The plan will support Welsh companies to aspire to a UK level of distribution and help build closer working relationships across supply-chains and retailers.

It is not the purpose of the Retail Plan to focus on technical issues such as improving the shelf-life of Welsh lamb. The Welsh Government continues to work with Hybu Cig Cymru on projects to lengthen the average shelf life of Welsh lamb; this now stands at an average of 36.5 days, whereas prior to 2019 this had an average of 21-28 days. Shelf life of Welsh lamb is primarily an issue for export not domestic markets and the Welsh Government continues to work with the industry to ensure that exports of food and drink from Wales can continue and grow, despite the recent challenges to the sector of Covid and Brexit.

Yours sincerely,

Lesley Griffiths AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Materion Gwledig a Gogledd Cymru, a'r Trefnydd
Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales, and Trefnydd

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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.