Jeremy Miles AS/MS
Gweinidog y Gymraeg ac Addysg
Minister for Education and Welsh Language

Ein cyf/Our ref WQ89084

Rhys ab Owen MS Welsh Parliament Cardiff Bay Cardiff CF99 1SN Llywodraeth Cymru Welsh Government

4 October 2023

Dear Rhys,

Thank you for your Written Question tabled regarding free school meals and how they will be offered to all primary school learners on an economically sustainable basis. I promised to write with a substantive response as soon as possible.

You will know the universal provision of free school meals in primary schools is being carried out in collaboration with Siân Gwenllian MS, the Plaid Cymru lead designated member, as part of the Co-operation Agreement between the Welsh Government and Plaid Cymru.

In total, £260million has been committed to implement UPFSM over the course of the Cooperation Agreement. This includes £64million capital funding for local authorities to invest in improvements to school kitchen facilities.

All local authorities have developed plans which will support them to deliver the commitment, based on local capacity to deliver quality, safety, and sustainability, and we are working closely with them as we begin the second year of delivery. Funding is allocated at a rate of £2.90 per meal per pupil and I have committed to a review of this unit rate, which will report later in the year.

Yours sincerely,

Jeremy Miles AS/MS

Gweinidog y Gymraeg ac Addysg Minister for Education and Welsh Language