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Ruth Hatton,
Deputy Committee Clerk
Legislation Office
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
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RE: Consultation – Proposed Healthy Eating in Schools Measure Committee

Dear Ms Williams,

The Royal College of Nursing (RCN) Wales welcomes this proposed Measure and I do hope that the following comments are helpful to you.

Please do not hesitate to contact my office if I can be of further assistance

Yours sincerely

Richard Jones
INTERIM DIRECTOR, RCN WALES

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*Mae'r RCN yn cynrychioli nyrsys a
nyrsio, gan hyrwyddo rhagoriaeth
mewn arfer a llunio polisiau iechyd*

*The RCN represents nurses and
nursing, promotes excellence in
practice and shapes health policies*

1. Is there a need for an Assembly Measure to promote healthy eating in schools in view of existing initiatives within this policy area?

We believe the proposed measure will promote a holistic approach and clear ownership of actions leading to higher standards of healthy eating in schools.

2. Do you support the key provisions set out in the proposed Measure, i.e.
- the duty on Welsh Ministers, governing bodies, head teachers and local education authorities to promote healthy eating in schools;
 - healthy eating should be part of the inspection regime and includes reporting requirements on Welsh Ministers, the Chief Inspector of Education and training in Wales and governing bodies;
 - power of Welsh Ministers to specify nutritional standards, including the requirement to specify maximum levels of salt, sugar and artificial additives in food and drink provided for pupils on school premises;
 - encouraging take up of school meals and protection of identity of those who receive them; and
 - the duty on local education authorities to ensure availability of drinking water for pupils.

Many of the proposals, including changes to the curriculum as well as the monitoring of and promotion of schools meals, will have a positive impact.

It is noted that the Measure allows Welsh Ministers to make Regulations which may specify nutritional standards and the provision of drinking water, both of which could have a significant impact on the availability of healthy nutritious food and drink within school settings.

We believe that the concerted focus on delivery of various aspects of the Measure will undoubtedly result in progress being made across all schools within Wales. The requirement to report annually on progress will ensure focus is maintained

3. What are the practical implications of putting these provisions in place?

There will clearly need to be effective communication with schools to inform them of the changes and the WAG will have to work closely with the LEA's to offer support over the introduction period.

4. Are there further provisions that you would like to see added to the proposed Assembly Measure?

The Measure as outlined is comprehensive. We are therefore not able to identify any missing elements from the proposal. We are pleased to note that the proposed Measure recognises the importance of ensuring safe drinking water is readily available for all children within the school environment.

5. Do you think the proposed Assembly Measure will achieve its overall purpose and aim, i.e. to enable a holistic, comprehensive 'made in Wales' policy on nutrition in schools to be developed and implemented?

We believe the proposed measure will promote a holistic approach and clear ownership of actions leading to higher standards of healthy eating in schools.

Royal College of Nursing Wales

The RCN is the world's largest professional union of nurses, representing over 390,000 nurses, midwives, specialist community public health nurses, health care support workers and nursing students, including around 23,000 members in Wales. The majority of RCN members work in the NHS with around a quarter working in the independent sector. The RCN works locally, nationally and internationally to promote standards of care and the interests of patients and nurses, and of nursing as a profession. The RCN is a UK-wide organisation, with its own National Boards for Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. The RCN is a major contributor to nursing practice, standards of care, and public policy as it affects health and nursing.

The RCN represents nurses and nursing, promotes excellence in practice and shapes health policies.