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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



Department of
**Health, Social Services
and Public Safety**
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**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**
MÁNNYSTRIE O
**Poustie, Resydènter Heisin
an Fowk Siccar**

DRAFT FOOD IN SCHOOLS POLICY

CONSULTATION RESPONSE QUESTIONNAIRE

DEADLINE: 11 December 2009

September 2009

INTRODUCTION

The Department of Education (DE) and the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS) have drawn up a Food in Schools policy document that brings together all the range of strategies and plans that are being put in place to deliver improved nutrition for our school children.

We would like to seek your views on this proposed policy.

ABOUT YOU

We would be grateful if you could provide the following information:

Name: _____

Organisation Represented: _____
(if applicable)

Address: _____

Town/City: _____

Postcode: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please select one category from those below that best describes you:

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Parent | <input type="checkbox"/> | Principal | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Teacher | <input type="checkbox"/> | Member of Board of Governors | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| School Caterer | <input type="checkbox"/> | Pupil | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Education and Library Board | <input type="checkbox"/> | Union Representative | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Food Manufacturer | <input type="checkbox"/> | Food Supplier | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Dietitian/Nutritionist | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other Health Professional | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other (please specify) | _____ | | |

If you are a Principal, Teacher, member of a school Board of Governors, parent or pupil please select the category of school or schools below with which you are associated. Mark all the boxes that apply:

- | | | | |
|---------|--------------------------|--------------|--------------------------|
| Nursery | <input type="checkbox"/> | Primary | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Special | <input type="checkbox"/> | Post-Primary | <input type="checkbox"/> |

SECTION 1 – AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The draft Food in Schools policy sets out the overall aims and objectives of Executive policy in relation to food in schools and describes the range of strategies and plans that are being put in place to deliver improved nutrition for our school children. (Paragraphs 1-3)

1. Do you agree that it is necessary to have a Food in Schools policy in order to deliver improved nutrition for our school children?

Yes No

Any other comments:

The principal aim of the Food in Schools policy is to ensure that food in schools is representative of the balance of good health; makes a significant contribution to childhood nutrition and that schools contribute to the development of the knowledge and skills necessary to be able to make healthy food choices. It also aims to ensure that early years settings provide adequate opportunities for good nutrition and embed good habits in terms of healthy eating. (Paragraphs 4-8)

2. Do you agree with the aims and objectives of the proposed policy?

Yes No

Any other comments:

SECTION 2 – TAKING A WHOLE-SCHOOL APPROACH

The policy proposes a whole-school approach to food and nutrition. This includes food available in tuck shops, vending machines and other sources of food in schools. This is required if we are to effectively address the range of issues impacting on childhood nutrition and the food choices that children make in school. (Paragraphs 9-11)

3. Do you agree with this approach?

Yes No

Any other comments:

The policy indicates that issues such as the food that children bring to school (eg packed lunches), the length of school lunchtimes and the rules on children leaving the school premises at break and lunchtimes are matters for schools to decide on at local level in conjunction with parents, supported as necessary by Education and Health partners. (Paragraph 10)

4. Do you agree that this is the correct approach?

Yes No

Any other comments:

School Meals and Food Other Than School Lunches

DE has drawn up nutritional standards for school lunches and other food in schools.
(Paragraphs 12-30)

5. Do you agree that it is important for these standards to be applied on a consistent basis throughout all aspects of the school including healthy break programmes, breakfast clubs etc?

Yes No

Any other comments:

Nutrition in Early Years

DE, in conjunction with DHSSPS, is drawing up recommended standards for childcare.
(Paragraphs 31-33)

6. Do you agree that these standards should include guidance in relation to the provision of food?

Yes No

Any other comments:

Promotion and Advertising of Food to Children and Young People

The policy encourages schools to look carefully at how the promotion of less healthy food options for children should be restricted eg through removing branding on vending machines, consideration of sponsorship of events etc. (Paragraph 34)

7. Do you agree with this approach?

Yes No

Any other comments:

Developing Knowledge and Skills

The policy highlights the connections which schools should develop between food policies and the revised curriculum. It also recommends that effective links are made between teaching on nutrition and health and teaching in relation to physical education. (Paragraphs 35-41)

8. Do you support the development of links between schools' food policies and the curriculum?

Yes No

Any other comments:

SECTION 3 – TARGETING SOCIAL NEED

The policy stresses the importance of programmes and initiatives such as free school meals, extended schools and healthy breaks being targeted at children and families from disadvantaged backgrounds. (Paragraphs 42-45)

9. Do you agree that the Food in Schools policy should address targeting social need?

Yes No

Any other comments:

SECTION 4 – IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FOOD IN SCHOOLS POLICY

Regional Implementation

Both DE and DHSSPS have committed additional funding to supporting the implementation of the Food in Schools policy. (Paragraphs 46-49)

10. Do you consider the level of investment of £3 million per year by DE with additional funding through the Fit Futures Implementation Plan to be adequate?

Yes No

Any other comments:

Local Implementation

The policy outlines the arrangements which have been put in place at local level to provide support to schools on food and nutrition issues. It also details the legal requirements which schools must meet in relation to the promotion of the health and well-being of their staff and pupils. (Paragraphs 50-53)

11. Do you consider the arrangements which have been put in place to be adequate?

Yes No

Any other comments:

Monitoring and Evaluation

The policy outlines the arrangements which have been put in place to monitor its overall implementation. (Paragraphs 55-57)

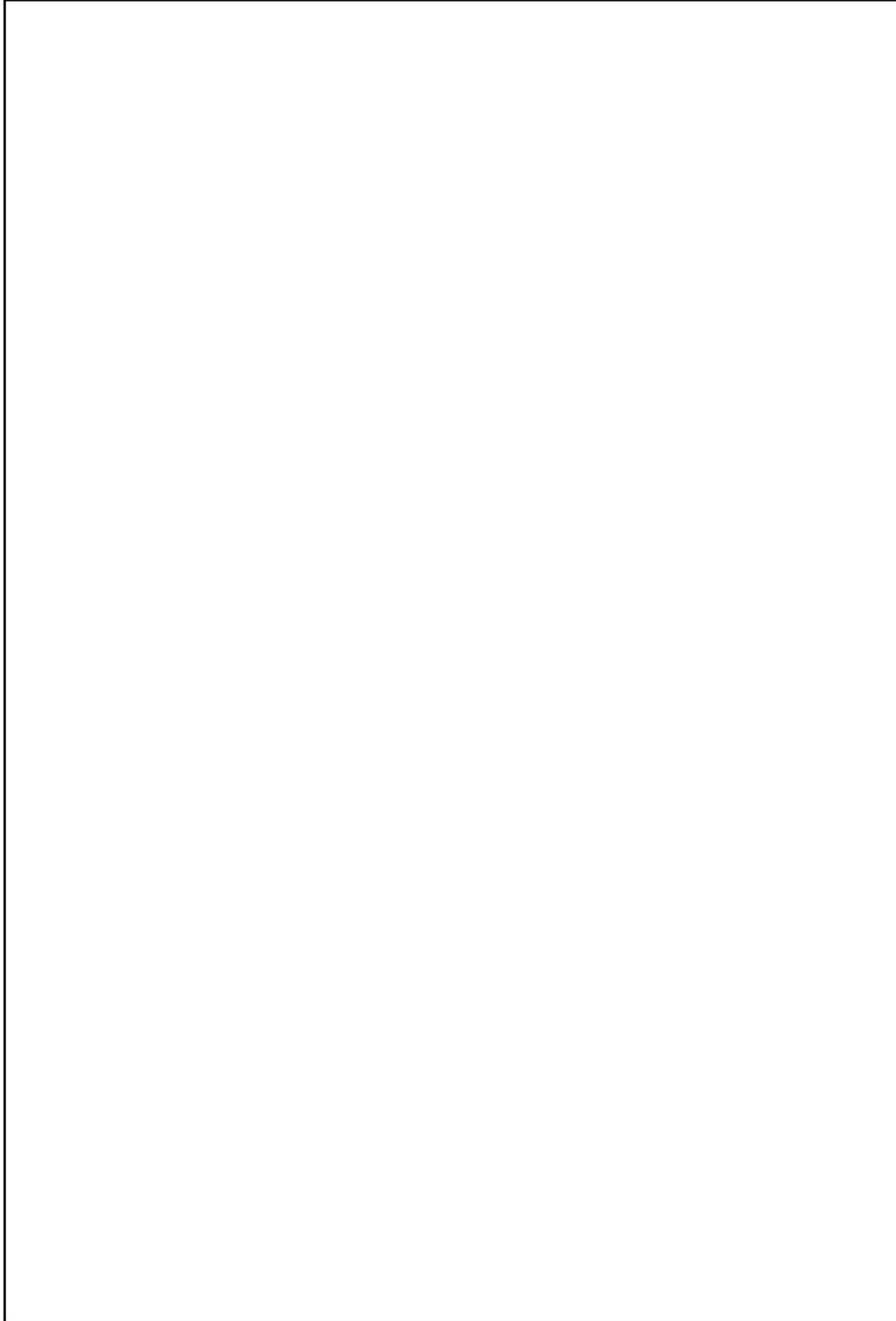
12. Do you consider these arrangements to be adequate?

Yes No

Any other comments:

SECTION 5 – GENERAL COMMENTS

13. Please use this section to make any further comments on the proposed Food in Schools policy.



SECTION 6 – EQUALITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

The Department has carried out a screening exercise on the equality and human rights implications of the proposed Food in Schools policy. This screening has concluded that the policy does not need to be subjected to a full equality impact assessment.

14. Do you agree with this conclusion?

Yes No

If not, please give your reasons below.

HOW TO RESPOND

Please send your response to Community Cohesion Team, Room F26A, Department of Education, Rathgael House, Balloo Road, Bangor BT19 7PR. Responses should be sent to arrive no later than 11 December 2009.

Alternatively you may submit your response before the deadline via the online form which can be found at www.deni.gov.uk.

Please contact the Department if you require the response booklet in other formats:

By phone:	028 9127 9442	By writing to:	Community Cohesion Team Room F26A Department of Education Rathgael House Balloo Road BANGOR BT19 7PR
By fax:	028 9127 9100		
By e-mail:	nutritional.standards@deni.gov.uk		

PUBLICATION OF RESPONSES

The Department will publish a summary of responses following completion of the consultation process. Your response, and all other responses to the consultation, may be disclosed on request. The Department can only refuse to disclose information in exceptional circumstances. **Before** you submit your response, please read the paragraphs below on the confidentiality of consultations and they will give you guidance on the legal position about any information given by you in response to this consultation. The Department will handle any personal data you provide appropriately in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998.

The Freedom of Information Act gives the public a right of access to any information held by a public authority, namely, the Department in this case. This right of access to information includes information provided in response to a consultation. The Department cannot automatically consider as confidential information supplied to it in response to a consultation. However, it does have the responsibility to decide whether any information provided by you in response to this consultation, including information about your identity should be made public or be treated as confidential.

This means that information provided by you in response to the consultation is unlikely to be treated as confidential, except in very particular circumstances. The Lord Chancellor's Code of Practice on the Freedom of Information Act provides that:

- the Department should only accept information from third parties in confidence if it is necessary to obtain that information in connection with the exercise of any of the Department's functions and it would not otherwise be provided;
- the Department should not agree to hold information received from third parties "in confidence" which is not confidential in nature; and
- acceptance by the Department of confidentiality provisions must be for good reasons, capable of being justified to the Information Commissioner.

For further information about confidentiality of responses, please contact the Information Commissioner's Office or see the website at <http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk>.

Consultation Response Questionnaire

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