Summary Integrated impact assessment:
Version one, date: 20/05/2025

The Healthy Eating in Schools (Nutritional Standards and Requirements) (Maintained Primary Schools) (Wales) Regulations 202[X]

SECTION 1

What action is the Welsh Government considering and why?

Since the current Healthy Eating in Schools (Nutritional Standards and Requirements) (Wales) Regulations 2013 ("Regulations") came into force, there have been some changes to UK dietary guidelines based on recommendations from the Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition (SACN).

The Welsh Government intends to hold a consultation on updated Regulations for primary schools and the relevant Statutory Guidance which sets out what food and drinks can be offered in schools in May-July 2025. The intention is to lay the Regulations in December 2025, and for them to come into force in the 2026-27 financial year.

Draft Guidance on responsibilities for promoting healthy eating in primary and secondary schools will also be consulted on in May-July 2025, with a final stand alone version published in December 2025.

A broader call for evidence will be held in May-July 2025 to support the continued work to update Regulations for secondary schools but this work will not be concluded during the current Senedd term.

Policy Objective

Wales leads the UK in providing free school meals to all primary school children. This important intervention helps tackle child poverty and hunger, supports learners to achieve, and contributes toward improved health, making a real difference in schools and communities across Wales.

We currently offer:

- Free school meals for all primary pupils.
- Free and subsidised school milk.
- Free breakfasts for primary pupils.
- Free school meals for secondary pupils who need them most.

Additionally, schools and local authorities offer a paid meal service in secondary schools.

However, from the Obesity in Wales report we know that currently:

- One in four reception aged children (about 9,000) start school living with obesity or overweight.

- Children living in areas of higher socio-economic disadvantage face greater rates of weight issues.
- Many children's diets don't meet national recommendations.

While many factors influence children's health outcomes, evidence shows that strong nutrition standards[1], implemented as part of a whole-school approach, can significantly improve dietary habits. Strengthening these requirements is a vital step toward ensuring school food helps shape lifelong healthy eating behaviours and improves health and education outcomes.

Wales Centre for Public Policy research indicates school meals can:

- Raise educational achievement.
- Help develop healthy eating habits and reduce health inequalities.
- Fight child hunger and poverty.
- Improve family finances.

School meals can make up half of a child's weekday food intake (breakfast and lunch). We want all learners to understand the importance of a nutritious diet, the impact of their choices on their physical health and well-being, and to develop positive informed behaviours that enhance their ability to achieve, overall mood, and energy levels.

Updating the Regulations therefore supports our "Healthier Wales" goal - creating a society where people's physical and mental well-being thrives and where healthier choices become easier.

The proposed updated Regulations and Guidance are based on the latest UK Government dietary recommendations – and have been co-developed with schools, governing bodies, local authority caterers, the Welsh Local Government Association, Public Health Wales, dieticians, Estyn and academics - reflecting their understanding of the views of parents and learners in their local communities where possible to ensure that every child in Wales has access to healthy food at school.

Our updated approach aims to:

- Help all children access the food they need for a healthy diet, including those with special or medical dietary needs.
- Provide age-appropriate portion sizes to reduce food waste.
- Support schools, caterers and partners to put these new requirements into practice.
- Balance healthier food with maintaining school favourites.
- Make it clear who is responsible for promoting healthy eating in schools and support them to fulfil this duty.

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[1] Anderson, M.L., Gallagher, J. and Ritchie, E.R. (2018) School meal quality and academic performance. Journal of Public Economics, 168, pp.81-93.

Primary Schools

This phase of the work focuses on updating Regulations and supporting Statutory Guidance for primary schools. Updating the Regulations to more closely align with current UK Dietary recommendations is the most effective way to deliver the policy intent of helping children access the food and drink they need to have a healthy diet and reach their potential, including those with special or medically prescribed dietary requirements.

To support the policy development work necessary to review the current Regulations and Guidance, expert groups were established through a Task and Finish approach. These groups reviewed the current food and drink requirements and the nutritional standards for primary schools based on UK dietary recommendations. They also considered the current guidance that supports the promotion of healthy eating and drinking, reflecting on best practice and how roles and responsibilities could be more clearly defined.

While the focus was on achieving the greatest health outcomes, the groups also considered the deliverability and uptake of a future food in schools offer, as well as how this might impact on the sustainability and viability of school food services in Wales. The group's work helped shape revised draft primary school food regulations for public consultation and the drafting of the supporting Statutory Guidance.

Key proposed changes include:

- Offer more fruit and vegetables to help Welsh children get their five-a-day.
- Provide more wholegrains because evidence suggests Welsh children aren't getting enough fibre.
- Limit pastry, sweetened baked goods and desserts, and fried foods based on the latest dietary advice.
- Tailor portion sizes based on infant and junior ranges to help reduce food waste
- Reduce processed meat and limit processed alternatives to fish and meat which can be high in salt and saturated fat.
- Safeguard red meat in moderation
- Prohibit sugary drinks, which are linked to obesity and tooth decay.

Overall, opportunities for this policy to reduce inequalities is highly dependent on the level of uptake. We will continue working closely with our key partners to better understand behaviours that might impact on delivery and to identify barriers and opportunities at a local level, to support effective and equitable implementation.

Secondary Schools

Extensive work is being undertaken to review the Regulations for secondary schools. The context is different to that in primary schools as most food service is hand-held,

‘grab and go’ items provided at morning break and lunchtime. A different approach is necessary for secondary schools, with short-term support required to help secondary provision to improve, and more data required on consumption habits to fully understand where the biggest impact can be made to work towards 9healthier provision over the medium to long term. Food service is shaped by a range of factors including:

- Children coming to school hungry having missed breakfast.
- Pupils not wanting to wait until lunchtime to eat.
- Limited opportunities to sit down and eat a meal due to dining size/space constraints.
- Reduced lunch breaks where time to eat and long queues for service competes with time for socialising.
- Wide range of choices at mid-morning and lunch that can be purchased in unlimited combinations make it difficult to balance in terms of nutrition.

We will continue to review the Regulations for secondary schools through collecting more information and data, as well as undertaking additional engagement. Given our understanding of audience insight, and the importance placed by young people on issues of autonomy regarding food choices, we need more time to hear young people’s views on secondary school food. We will hold a call for evidence on secondary school food during May-July 2025. However, updated Regulations for secondary schools will not be laid in this Senedd term. The existing Regulations and accompanying Guidance for Secondary schools will continue to apply.

Healthy eating promotion: Clearer guidance on responsibilities

As part of this phase of work we have also updated guidance relating to the promotion of healthy eating and drinking. This aims to:

- Clearly define the duties of local authorities and school governing bodies in promoting healthy eating
- Provide practical examples of how schools can effectively promote healthy eating habits
- Clarify who is responsible for specific duties in different school settings
- Explain how schools can demonstrate they are meeting their legal requirements
- Support a whole-school approach to creating healthier food environments

Integration

This integrated impact assessment is aligned to the legislation, strategies and commitments listed below:

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)

There is a full analysis of the impact of the policy proposals on the realisation of the UNCRC in the draft child rights impact assessment. This demonstrates an overarching positive impact on the Rights of Children but a potential interpretation of a Childs right to freedom of choice could be impacted as the Regulations will limit the choice of food offered in schools.

The policy proposals will progress the realisation of rights within the UNCRC. Revising the Regulations and Guidance provides an opportunity to ensure we remain aligned with:

- **Article 6** (life, survival and development) Every child has the right to life. Governments must do all they can to ensure that children survive and develop to their full potential. This policy proposal will increase access to healthy food for children which will improve child development and contribute towards them achieving their full potential.
- **Article 24** (health and health services) Every child has the right to the best possible health. Governments must provide good quality health care, clean water, nutritious food, and a clean environment and education on health and well-being so that children can stay healthy. This policy proposal will directly increase children's access to nutritious food and education on health and wellbeing.
- **Article 27** (adequate standard of living) Every child has the right to a standard of living that is good enough to meet their physical and social needs and support their development. Governments must help families who cannot afford to provide this. This policy will is part of a programme of food in schools which increases access to food for families who cannot afford it and improves the standard of food to support child development for all primary school learners.

However, there exists a potential conflict of rights if **Article 13** (right to freedom of expression) is interpreted in a way which considers that the new food requirements could limit a child's choice to certain food provisions. However, on balance, ensuring that the food offer in primary schools reflects the latest health recommendations enhances children's rights rather than diminishes them.

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)

This policy proposal will work towards realisation of the Rights withing ICESCR included Article 11 (3) – Right to adequate standard of living (Food) and Article 13. & 14. – The right to education.

Food and drink provided in schools can make a positive contribution towards improving the health and concentration of children, assisting in the raising of standards of learning and attainment (Article 11, 13 & 14). Support for disadvantaged children is also available through a range of food in school initiatives. These include those aimed at tackling hunger/poverty through free school meals, free primary breakfasts and the free/subsidised school milk scheme.

In addition, the nutrient value of the food served at school can also have an impact on attainment – diets high in fat, salt and sugar are likely to increase a child's risk of becoming overweight leading to inequalities in health and well-being.

Equality Act 2010

There is a full analysis of the impact of the policy proposals on the progress of equality and the potential impact on children with protected characteristics.

Reviewing the Healthy Eating Regulations and associated guidance will have a positive impact on over all 235,000 primary aged learners who will have an opportunity to access healthier food which can support the development of healthy eating habits and reduce health inequalities associated with poor diet. This will have a positive impact on all children with the potential to have a greater impact on children living in socio-economic disadvantage as they are more likely to be living with obesity. However, it is recognised that opportunities for this policy to reduce inequalities is highly dependent on the level of uptake.

However, we recognise that any negative impacts could be disproportionately felt by some groups of learners and families more than others including disabled children, some children from ethnic minorities, some children with certain religious beliefs and children living in socio-economic disadvantage if their needs are not considered in policy development and menu design.

Therefore, our consultation will directly engage with children with protected characteristics and the Guidance will make clearer requirements for schools and local authorities to consider the needs of these learners that may require menu adjustments because of their religious or cultural beliefs.

In addition, through revising the Guidance we will ensure parents have clarity on their child's rights to a school meal if they have a special or medically prescribed diet, supporting equity across Wales for learners and families requesting reasonable adjustments because of their child's disability.

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

The Act aims to improve the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. It makes public bodies think more about the long-term, preventing problems occurring or getting worse through involving people and taking a more joined up approach. The Act presents a clear framework for public Bodies to work within, making sure that public bodies are all working towards seven well-being goals. This seeks to create a Wales that we all want to live in, now and in the future.

The regulations and the guidance present an opportunity to contribute to 'A more equal Wales' and 'a healthier Wales' through setting out requirements for inclusive, nutritionally balanced school meals, ensuring access to clean, drinking water, strengthening anonymous access to eligibility related free school meals and improved learner focus on positive healthy eating behaviours.

Child Poverty Strategy for Wales, 2024

Objective 1 of the strategy is to reduce costs and maximise the incomes of families by reducing food costs. Food poverty is about the affordability of food and its accessibility in local communities. People can face a ‘poverty premium’ at local food shops where prices are higher and may be limited in their ability to pay for transport to access food at better value prices in other areas. A lack of access to affordable, healthy food is directly related to health inequalities.

The Healthy Eating in Schools Regulations present an opportunity to provide a healthy school meal, supporting those families who otherwise would not be able to provide their children with the benefits of a nutritious and balanced diet.

The Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010

This measure places a duty on Welsh Ministers and named public bodies to set objectives for tackling child poverty and report on the actions they take which help to achieve their objectives. The legislation aims to improve the lives of those children and families, tackling the inequalities associated specifically with poverty.

Healthy Weight: Healthy Wales

This includes a National Priority to remove barriers to reduce diet and health inequalities across the population. The policy aims to achieve visible support for all families in need across Wales; whole systems working together.

The Healthy Eating in Schools regulations present an opportunity to offer a nutritionally balanced primary school meal, supporting those families who otherwise would not be able to provide their children with the benefits of a nutritious and balanced diet, reducing those health inequalities associated with poor diet.

Curriculum for Wales

The Curriculum for Wales guidance aims to help each school develop its own curriculum, enabling their learners to develop towards the four purposes of the curriculum, the starting point and aspiration for every child and young person in Wales.

The Health and Well-being Area of Learning and Experience is mandatory within the Curriculum for Wales and provides a holistic structure for understanding health and well-being, promoting the understanding of how the different components of this area are interconnected, and recognising that good health and well-being are important to enable successful learning. This area of the curriculum can help learners to understand the factors that affect physical health and well-being and support them to develop the knowledge and understanding that can help them lead healthy and active lifestyles. This includes health-promoting behaviours such as nutrition, including the benefits of a balanced diet. It provides an opportunity for learners to develop an understanding of a range of perspectives and to make informed decisions on issues such as sourcing local nutritious foods, sustainability, and for planning and preparing nutritious meals.

This supports all learners to understand the importance of a nutritious diet, the impact of their choices on their physical health and well-being, and developing positive informed behaviours that enhance learners' self-worth, overall mood, and energy levels.

The Healthy Eating in Schools Regulations present an opportunity to further support the purposes of the curriculum by providing learners with food that is healthy and nutritionally balanced so that they are capable to learn. The updated Guidance on promoting healthy eating and drinking further supports these ambitions.

Long Term

Updating the Regulations and Guidance is an effective way to improve provision and to embed a whole school approach towards a long-term strategy to healthy eating and improving opportunities and quality of life for children and young people living in Wales. Together with the universal provision of free school meals for children in primary schools, the review of the Regulations provides a unique opportunity to improve the nutrition of children, ensuring our youngest learners are given the best possible start, by reflecting the latest UK Government dietary recommendations.

Prevention

Every child in Wales deserves a fair chance at a healthy life which allows them to reach their potential. Processed and unhealthier options can be cheaper and more accessible than the healthier alternatives, making it hard for busy families to maintain a healthy lifestyle. Children spend a significant proportion of their daily lives in school and so reviewing the Regulations is an opportunity to instil healthy eating habits that can last a lifetime.

Furthermore, considering the latest UK Government dietary recommendations for child nutrition aligns with the Welsh Government's Programme for Government commitment to meet the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act for a '*Healthier Wales'* and a '*society in which people's physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood'.*

Collaboration

To support the policy development work necessary to review the regulations and guidance, expert groups were established through a Task and Finish approach with a range of partners including schools, governing bodies, local authorities caterers, Welsh Local Government Association, Public Health Wales, LACA Wales, dieticians, public health, Estyn and academics. The groups assessed whether the current regulations and guidance for primary schools are fit for purpose considering evidence on what is currently being consumed, recommendations from the Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition (SACN) committee along with the Eat Well Guide[2], alongside issues such as practical affordability, deliverability and take-up.

[2] The Eat Well Guide is a visual representation of how different food and drink can contribute towards a healthy balanced diet. It is based on five food groups and shows how much of what you eat should come

Health was the key policy driver and discussions focused on aiming for the optimal wherever possible. In some instances, however, food waste, reduction in take-up of school food on certain days and the impact on the viability of the service were considered. The proposals put forward have been shared in advance to allow proper consideration by those who will have a key role in delivery and supporting realisation of our wellbeing objectives through this work.

Wider stakeholder view

Work to revise the Healthy Eating Regulations began in 2019 with a recognition that they needed updating to reflect updated scientific guidance published by SACN. The process was put on hold during the pandemic and, later, whilst local authorities rolled out the commitment to provide free school meals universally to primary pupils across Wales.

Whilst the universal provision of free school meals in primary have been generally well received by learners, parents and stakeholders, the Welsh Government has continued to receive correspondence regarding the quality and quantity of food served in schools.

There has also been activity undertaken by partners and stakeholders in this space, including a report published by the Children's Commissioner that identified a number of perceived issues, including that some older primary school learners were going home from school hungry.

Considering the different policy objectives in revising the regulations, a workshop to develop core assumptions and common objectives was hosted by Public Health Wales (PHW) on behalf of the Welsh Government 26 September 2023. Attendees at the event included Welsh Government officials from a range of policy areas including education, health, review of the school day, poverty, and food supply chain. It also included external representatives including Estyn, Food Sense Wales, Local Authority Catering Association (LACA), Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) and Public Health Dietitians.

Key discussion points included:

- the need to review the whole school approach and involve parents, children and school staff in ensuring that positive attitudes are developed towards a balanced diet; and
- a realistic model for secondary schools that considers eating behaviours and deliverability of any changes.

Pre consultation period

As part of ongoing engagement with local authorities and the WLGA, officials were asked to grant a period of testing and/or reflection prior to the public consultation process, in order to ensure that local authorities had the opportunity to fully understand the impact of any proposals on the feasibility, viability and cost of delivery. The Cabinet Secretary agreed to a pre-consultation testing phase. Officials

have continuously engaged with local authorities and schools that do their own catering, and adapted proposals to reflect any preliminary feedback, notably, clarifying any proposals or guidance that hindered the ability to test or sufficiently consider the proposals in appropriate levels of detail. Further engagement has been undertaken with children and young people, public health dietitians, suppliers, and healthy schools' coordinators.

Involvement

To help develop policy proposals, the Welsh Government engaged with a variety of stakeholders, which included the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA), local authority caterers, LACA Wales – the school food people, school governors, school children, local authorities. Estyn, Public Health Wales (PHW), internal Welsh Government health and education colleagues, and third sector organisations such as Children in Wales.

Local authorities have been extensively engaged in the development of the updated Regulations and Guidance for primary schools with a pre-consultation testing phase allowing the proposals to be further refined prior to drafting the Regulations that will go out to consultation. This testing phase will also better support their responses provided through consultation.

Impact

Impact on learners and families

The current Healthy Eating in Schools (Nutritional Standards and Requirements) (Wales) Regulations were implemented in 2013 and the accompanying statutory guidance was published in June 2014. Much has changed since then in terms of scientific and dietetic research and guidance.

The Welsh Government Universal Primary Free School Meal programme (UPFSM) fully rolled out in September 2024. Significant investment into this commitment means that thousands more primary children in Wales are eating school meals. This is a transformational intervention in terms of child hunger and child poverty, education and health, having an impact in the current financial climate, keeping much needed money in family's pockets.

Schools are environments where children consume anywhere up to half of their daily dietary requirements (eg breakfast and lunch). Updating the Regulations is an effective way to raise the standards of the provision across Wales and associated statutory guidance will place importance on the requirement to provide a nutritionally balanced school meal, based on the latest UK Government dietary recommendations.

According to a recent Public Health Wales Report, the current cost-of-living crisis means more families and children in Wales are unable to afford to keep their homes warm or eat enough healthy food. This increases the risk of children developing health conditions such as asthma, and lack of healthy food may have an impact on

affected children being able to concentrate at school. This not only harms the health and well-being of children now but their future life chances too, which has the potential to trap them in poverty.

This work presents an opportunity to reduce inequalities by offering a nutritionally balanced school meal to primary aged learners, supporting those families who otherwise would not be able to provide their children with the benefits of a nutritious and balanced diet. Updated guidance will ensure that school governing bodies are better equipped to fulfil their requirements under the Duty, providing support to school leaders, and driving a culture whereby healthy eating permeates throughout the whole school. Healthy eating behaviours amongst learners can also contribute to reducing health and attainment inequalities associated with poor diet, improving future life chances.

However, it is recognised that opportunities for this policy to reduce inequalities is highly dependent on the level of uptake. We will continue working closely with our key partners to better understand behaviours that might impact on delivery and to identify barriers and opportunities at a local level, to support effective and equitable implementation and mitigate emerging inequalities as they are identified.

There are reports that some children are reporting as hungry following their school lunch. The revised Regulations will introduce a minimum and maximum serving size on certain provisions. We will ensure there is no upper limit on the food we want to encourage, such as fruit, vegetables and bread which is at least 50% wholegrain to satiate larger appetites, whilst limiting foods which contain sugar and saturated fat which increase the risk of diet-related health problems.

Limiting certain provisions within the updated Regulations for primary schools could be perceived as limiting children's freedom of choice and in doing so could increase child hunger if children do not eat what is offered. This could have a particular impact on children living in socio-economic disadvantage who may be more reliant on the meal in school.

Impact on delivery partners

Local authorities have been extensively engaged in the development of the updated Regulations for primary schools, with a pre-consultation testing and reflection phase allowing the proposals to be considered and further refined prior to drafting these updated Regulations. The proposals could be initially challenging for some partners to achieve but appear broadly deliverable following feedback from our Task and Finish Groups.

The review of the Regulations could provide more opportunities for rural communities by encouraging more local, sustainable produce to be sourced, linking with the Community Food Strategy and utilising the local supply chain from farm to fork. However, it is acknowledged that the provisions could also potentially negatively impact agriculture and food businesses who supply provisions we want to limit in school meals. We will continue to work with producers to adjust their products

to ensure compliance and identify new opportunities for specific school meal product development. We wish to better understand potential impacts through consultation.

Local Food Partnerships, now established in every Local Authority in Wales, can provide strategic co-ordination of local food projects and creating new supply opportunities by connecting local food stakeholders. Joining farmers with wider organisations along the supply chain will complement the objectives of the Sustainable Farming Scheme. For example, the increase in fruit and vegetables within primary schools provides an opportunity to increase local production. Continuing to work with the agriculture sector in Wales to develop new opportunities to increase local supply is crucial.

Reducing food waste is a key part of our transition to a circular economy. The updated Regulations and Guidance for primary schools provides an opportunity to work with our food production sector to encourage sustainability and shorten supply chains to decrease consumption emissions. In addition, changes to portion size which may help to reduce food waste. However, changes in food groups offered may, at least initially, result in some additional food waste.

Anecdotally, we are aware there may be some challenges for rural authorities that may be harder to overcome than in urban authorities, due to their geography and population density – for example, food supply, transportation and sharing of cooking and storage facilities. We will continue to work closely with our key delivery partners to further consider the impacts on rural authorities as part of the implementation and monitoring of any updated Regulations and Guidance. We hope to develop a better understanding of any perceived issues through consultation.

Cost and savings

Local authority caterers have extensive experience of developing menus, and the school food Regulations allow caterers the flexibility to incorporate a vast amount of choice in menu design. This means that whilst the cost of provisions will continue to be considered when designing menus, substitutes can be made where costs are prohibitive.

Initial pre-consultation testing of the Regulations for primary schools by local authorities has suggested that there might be an increase in cost of meals but there is currently limited evidence. There may also be savings, including through smaller portion sizes for younger pupils. This will be kept under review, and we will consider feedback provided through the consultation.

Mechanism

The Healthy Eating in Schools (Wales) Measure 2009 gives the Welsh Ministers the power to prescribe requirements in connection with food or drink provided on the premises of any maintained school or food or drink provided at a place other than school premises by a local authority or the governing body of a maintained school to any registered pupil at the school. The Healthy Eating in Schools (Nutritional

Standards and Requirements (Wales) Regulations) 2013 were made under this power. These apply to maintained nursery settings, primary and secondary schools and are comprised of nutrient and food-based requirements.

These Regulations will apply to all maintained primary schools in Wales. The definition of ‘primary school’ is to be the same as in the current Regulations, being a school that provides primary education (whether or not it also provides other kinds of education).

To help local authorities understand the legislative requirements set out within the regulations, the Guidance will provide further details. All the changes made in the Regulations and their policy aims will be reflected in the Guidance which we intend to issue when the revised regulations are laid.

SECTION 8 CONCLUSION

How have people most likely to have been affected by the proposal been involved in developing it?

School catering staff in local authorities have already been consulted on the requirements of the revised regulations and have been involved in advising on the menu changes needed. School governors have also been extensively engaged during the pre-consultation phase. The views of children and parents will be gathered during the public consultation, this will inform any changes that are needed.

What are the most significant impacts, positive and negative?

The main significant impact would be that children are getting healthier food, but this could possibly mean that there are fewer food options that they are used to, such as processed meat products, potentially resulting in a drop in take up of the school meal on certain days initially. However, the expectation is that children will develop a taste for more nutritious food over time which could encourage healthy eating choices for the rest of their lives. This will facilitate a healthier population and reduce the burden on the National Health Service. More nutritious school food could help contribute to reducing the risk of diet related health problems such as obesity, cancer, coronary heart disease and diabetes which could impose larger costs on the NHS in Wales over time.

The updated Regulations and Guidance for primary schools include changes to portion size which may help to reduce food waste, but changes in food groups offered may, at least initially, result in some additional food waste.

We anticipate gathering further evidence on potential impacts through formal consultation and reflecting on these before further revisions of proposals are made as appropriate.

How will the impact of the proposal be monitored and evaluated as it progresses and when it concludes?

Following a final decision on the policy as a result of the public consultation and the making of new regulations, methods of evaluation will be considered and will be essential in measuring the impact of this new policy.

A range of opportunities exist that can be used to support monitoring and evaluation of any changes. These include existing education and health data-sets and indicators which can be compared over time, the independent evaluation of the universal primary free school meals commitment, data on public procurement, market insight, engagement and social listening.