

From: Foi Enquiries

Sent: 18 December 2019 14:40

Subject: FOI-19-1578 - Vegan School Meals

Thank you for your information request of 20 November 2019. Aberdeen City Council (ACC) has completed the necessary search for the information requested. Our response is now detailed below.

1 – if schools in your local authority area have meal options that are suitable for vegans on their daily canteen menu? If yes, are these options clearly identified as suitable for vegans on the menu? Please could you provide us with a copy of the menu. This question relates to both primary and secondary schools.

The daily menu in both our Primary School and Secondary School settings contain a minimum of one vegetarian option. Some, but not all options are suitable for vegans, specific guidance and advice on this can be obtained from Catering staff at the site of purchase. All the vegetarian dishes are, however, marked with a (v) to highlight that they are vegetarian. At present, no choices are highlighted as being vegan, however, as noted below in question 2, we accommodate such requests where practicably possible.

Hungry for Success, the School Foods and Nutrition Act (2007) and Better Eating Better Learning, require school catering to provide for pupils with special dietary requirements as a result of a healthcare need. However, many young people choose to make changes to their food intake in response to their own beliefs and opinions. The service cannot guarantee to provide for all personal preferences, however through a varied menu, choice will always be available. Choosing a vegan diet is a lifestyle choice rather than a medically prescribed diet and as such, there is no statutory obligation for the service to provide a vegan meal daily. But as indicated above, we accommodate requests for vegan dishes where practicably possible.

2 - if schools in your local authority area do not have meal options that are suitable for vegans on their daily canteen menus, please can you confirm that they provide food that is suitable for vegans on request? If yes, please could you provide us with a copy of the menu they provide when this is requested by a vegan child / their parents. Please also let us know where this is covered on your website.

If a pupil was to request a vegan meal, we would look at ways to accommodate their request using foods which are already held within the kitchen. There is no set alternative menu in place and such requests are accommodated on a site by site basis. At present the demand is very low within our service area, however, going forward if this was to change significantly, we may have to review in the future.

We are unable to provide you with information on **a copy of the menu we provide when this is requested by a vegan child / their parents** as it is not held by ACC. In order to comply with our obligations under the terms of Section 17 of the FOISA, we hereby gives notice that this information is not held by us.

Please see below the link where you can download a copy of the school meals menu, also include some useful details in relation to school meals:

<https://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/services/education-and-childcare/view-school-meals-menu>

INFORMATION ABOUT THE HANDLING OF YOUR REQUEST

We handled your request for information in accordance with the provisions of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. Please refer to the attached PDF for more information about your rights under FOISA.

We hope this helps with your request.

Yours sincerely,



Salomeh Kheyri Rad | Access to Information Officer

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