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**Health and Social Services Group**



**Llywodraeth Cymru**  
**Welsh Government**

To: Social Care Providers

21 March 2019

Dear Colleague

**Re. Food supply chain preparations for the Social Care sector in Wales in a no deal Brexit scenario**

Following my letter of 11 March regarding preparations to ensure the continuity of supply for medical devices and clinical consumables (MDCC) I am writing to update you on food supply preparations in the event of a no-deal Brexit.

A no-deal exit from the EU could cause some disruption to the food supply chain. There is no evidence to suggest this will lead to an overall shortage of food; however it may lead to a reduction in the choice and availability of certain products imported from the EU, such as some types of fresh fruit and vegetables.

Disruption to food supply in the short term is unlikely to result in lower nutrient intakes. However, as part of your business planning for Brexit we recommend that you consider ways in which meals could be adapted if the availability of some ingredients is limited. UK dietary advice, as depicted by the Eatwell Guide: <https://beta.gov.wales/eatwell-guide>, is based on a wide range of foods. Shortages of a single food item can be substituted with alternative foods within each food group.

The Welsh Government is developing advice on food for public sector settings to support EU exit contingency planning. This will be published on the Welsh Government website in due course and we will notify you once this is made available.

The Welsh Government is engaging with Local Authorities and strategic wholesale, distributors and retail food suppliers to understand their contingency planning. The message from retailers is consistent that thorough preparations are being made and that supplies will be maintained, albeit with less choice in some product lines. Please do not stockpile food as this may cause disruptions to supply.

The Welsh Government has published a self-assessment toolkit through Business Wales to help businesses identify risks and prepare for 'no deal':  
<https://businesswales.gov.wales/brexit/home>

Eligible businesses can also apply for the Brexit Resilience Fund to help them adapt to the changes in a post-Brexit Welsh economy:  
<https://businesswales.gov.wales/brexit/support/brexit-resilience-fund>

Further information on how Wales is preparing for Brexit overall can be found on the Preparing Wales website:  
<https://beta.gov.wales/preparing-wales-brexit/health-and-social-services>

I hope that you find this correspondence helpful and I thank you for your contribution to the delivery of social care.

Yours sincerely,

*Albert Heaney*

**ALBERT HEANEY**  
**Director of Social Services and Integration**  
cc. Local Authority Directors of Social Services