

CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

- 1) Do you agree that local authorities should be under a duty to ensure that food and drinks, which they provide in their schools, including nurseries, meet defined nutrient standards?

Yes No

Comment (add separately if required)

- 2) Where children are attending independent schools, and where the provision of food and drinks are arranged or funded, by a local authority, should the foods and drinks meet defined nutrient standards?

Yes No

Comment (add separately if required)

- 3) Should local authorities be under a duty to promote the uptake of school meals in their schools, including free school meals?

Yes No

Comment (add separately if required)

- 4) Should local authorities be under a duty to ensure that those taking free school meals can do so anonymously, as far as is practicable?

Yes No

Comment (add separately if required)

- 5) Should local authorities have the power to provide children in local authority schools with free drinks, fruit and vegetables, bread or cereal based snacks, which meet defined nutrient standards?

Yes No

Comment (add separately if required)

I think when considering healthy snack options, one has to be very careful about the implications on oral health. Although oral disease, (asides from oral cancers) does not tend to be in the same league as diabetes, obesity and coronary heart disease, it can have a huge impact on an individual's overall health, and in cases where a person already suffers from one of the above, poor oral health can exacerbate their problems.

A lot of cereal-based snacks do tend to contain high levels of sugar as well as dried fruit, which is proven to be detrimental to oral health. (*Scientific Basis of Oral Health Education- BDJ Publications*). These are recommended as *healthier* options and are recommended by dental professionals to be consumed at mealtimes only to reduce the impact on oral health. Fruit based drinks, including fresh fruit juice, have high concentrations of fructose and fruit acids and are also recommended to be consumed at mealtimes only.

Improving the Oral Health status of Scotland is now a national priority, as laid out in "*Action Plan for Improving Oral Health and Modernising NHS Dental Services*"-(*Scottish Executive, 2005*) and it is very important that all these various National Action Plans do not contradict each other. A holistic approach to health improvement and promotion is needed if we are to make a difference in the overall health of Scotland as a whole.

6) Should there be a duty on Scottish ministers and local authorities to endeavour to ensure that all local authority are health-promoting schools?

Yes No

Comment (add separately if required)

7) Any other comments? (Add separately if required)