



**Department
of Health &
Social Care**

From Steve Brine MP
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Dr Sarah Wollaston MP
Chair, Health and Social Care Select Committee
House of Commons
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From Dr Wollaston,

At the evidence session of the Health and Social Care Select Committee's Inquiry on childhood obesity on 22 May, I committed to write to the Committee to provide further information on some areas. I apologise for not writing sooner.

Firstly, on the Obesity Policy Research Unit (OPRU) and its analysis of Amsterdam's Healthy Weight Programme. This report is available on the publications page of the OPRU's website at: www.ucl.ac.uk/obesity-policy-research-unit/

On the issue of taking back control of food labelling in the context of future trade deals and the plans the Department has to engage other countries and relevant Government Departments on this issue.

We are committed to helping consumers to better understand the nutrient content of food and drink, specifically sugar content, through clear labelling.

As you know, current nutrition labelling is regulated by EU legislation. The UK's decision to leave the European Union may give us an opportunity to develop greater flexibility to determine what information should be presented and how it should be displayed in the UK. We will be looking at further opportunities for presenting nutritional information in the wider context of promoting healthier choices and tackling obesity.

We are also continuing to learn from the latest evidence and exciting new approaches from the UK and abroad, including the latest developments in Chile. I know they are taking a range of ambitious actions to tackle obesity, including stricter food labelling, and we will be looking with interest as these move forward.

Regarding your comment on future trade deals, it is crucial to maintain the high standards on food quality in the UK and to support our domestic public health priorities in future trade arrangements. We will continue to work with our European partners to ensure a strong public health consideration as we move forward.

We are working closely with other Government Departments on delivering both chapters of our Childhood Obesity Plan. My officials have been in contact with the Department for International Trade on this issue, I can assure you that I will be speaking to them further in due course.

Finally, I can confirm we will be responding formally to the Committee shortly.



STEVE BRINE