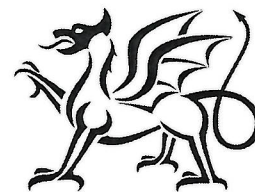


Lesley Griffiths AC/AM
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Ynni, Cynllunio a Materion Gwledig
Cabinet Secretary for Energy, Planning and Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Mike Hedges AM
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March 2018

Dear Mike

Thank you for your question on the 23 January 2018, when I made an oral statement about the Welsh food and drink industry, about the success of our companies in securing shelf space in large retailers and also the trade flow with England.

The Welsh Government provides considerable support directly to food and drink businesses and consequently the industry is flourishing. We also develop routes to market through conversations with major buyers, such as the large retailers, and running events which bring buyers and producers together. Collectively this work promotes Welsh food and drink products and raises awareness of the Welsh offer. There is growing interest in our product offer which is a factor in the Welsh industry growing.

In Plenary we touched on whether statistics are available about the food and drink industry trade flow across the England–Wales border. They are not because no recording of the trade in value or volume of food and drink products within the UK happens because the food system operates as one market. We can, however, state generally that domestic trade within the UK is highly significant from comparing crudely the size of the food and drink manufacturing sector compared with exports. The food and drink manufacturing sector turned over £6.9 billion in 2016 but the value of all Welsh food and drink exported was a small sum in comparison (£505 million in 2017). Although a portion of Welsh food and drink would be traded with Scotland and Northern Ireland, it is a fair assumption due to population size and geographic proximity that most was traded with England.

Regards
Lesley

Lesley Griffiths AC/AM
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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.