

**PE1708/L**

Scottish Government submission of 2 September 2019

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this petition. Scottish Government's response to the questions asked is as follows:

We have no comments on the findings of the survey presented previously by the petitioners.

Veganism is not a protected characteristic for the purposes of the Equality Act 2010 and nor are there specific responsibilities in this area for public bodies under ECHR or the Human Rights Act 1998. There are no specific responsibilities for the UK Equality and Human Rights Commission with regard to veganism.

The Scottish Government's "A Healthier Future: Scotland's Diet & Healthy Weight Delivery Plan does not promote vegan diets over other diets and Scottish Government has no plans to change this policy.

Scottish Ministers are considering next steps with regard to the development of a Good Food Nation Bill. The Consultation on Good Food Nation Proposals for Legislation, which closed in April 2019, outlined proposals for focused legislation placing responsibilities on Scottish Ministers and specified public bodies with regard to food. The proposals do not include legislative provisions with regard to veganism or other specific diets.

The cost implications of any new requirements for public bodies in relation to veganism would be considered at the appropriate time.