

11/11/19

Dear Senedd Petitions,

I am writing in response to the evidence provided by the major retailers in response to the petition calling for the Welsh Government to encourage all supermarkets and retailers to have doors on all their fridges and freezers, and so reduce our national carbon footprint, electricity consumption and pave a way for a greener Wales. I have been informed this will be debated again on Tuesday 19th November 2019, and I have been given the opportunity to respond.

Firstly, thank you for making the time to seriously consider this petition and writing to the major retailers. It is clear that most supermarkets are taking steps forward in thinking about how they consume energy. For example, Sainsburys "have reduced [their] absolute carbon emissions by 35%" since 2005, and M&S have said that their "business emission have reduced by 75% over the last 12 years". However, Morrisons did not even reply properly, but instead referred to their corporate responsibility webpage. Lidl have said, they "have installed glazed doors on all [their] fresh meat, fish and roll-in milk chillers. It is estimated that these measures result in a 30-40% energy saving compared with chillers without doors." Progress is being made but it is not enough.

It has been declared by the UK Government and scientists across the world that we have an "environment and climate emergency". An emergency can be defined as: "something dangerous or serious, such as an accident, that happens suddenly or unexpectedly and needs **fast action** in order to **avoid harmful results**". In others words, an emergency demands immediate and fast action, which means it is not good enough to be making progress as if we have plenty of time. We don't. If we are serious about tackling this emergency then we must be serious about putting in legislation to tackle it. How will the Welsh Assembly respond?

This petition gives the Welsh Assembly the opportunity to respond to this state of emergency. To act now and to act fast. We are therefore calling on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to encourage all supermarkets and retailers to have doors on all their fridges and freezers, and so reduce our national carbon footprint, electricity consumption and pave a way for a greener Wales.

Placing doors on fridges and freezers is a simple way of saving a lot of energy, since as previously stated in the petition, just one "typical 2.5 metre mineral fridge with doors will typically save 10,000kWh per year compared to fridges without doors. This is the equivalent of 7 tonnes of carbon dioxide greenhouse gas and would be enough to power at least two homes of electricity for one year!" This is an opportunity for the Welsh Government to take action against the climate emergency.

What will the Welsh Government do in regards to placing doors on fridges and freezers inside all supermarkets and retails across Wales and so help slow down and eventually prevent catastrophic effects of this climate emergency?

As stated in my previous response:

- I petition the Welsh Government to think carefully how they are **urgently** addressing the issues of climate change.
- I petition the Welsh Government to think through how they will keep food retailers **accountable** to their energy usage rather than simply reporting figures.
- I urge the Welsh Government to consider encouraging all supermarkets and retailers to have doors on all their fridges and freezers and petition the UK Government for legislation so that

we can **reduce** our national carbon footprint, electricity consumption and pave a way for a **greener** Wales.

I believe the Welsh Government has a role and responsibility to respond to this state of emergency, set an example for others, take this opportunity to take a stand against climate change and take action now that will pave a way for a greener Wales and a greener world.

Thank you for taking the time to debate this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Jonathan Burton