Dear MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT NAME [e.g. Mr Joe Bloggs MP or Ms Josephine Bloggs MP]

I’m writing about The Vegan Society’s campaign, [Catering for Everyone](https://www.vegansociety.com/take-action/campaigns/catering-everyone/about-campaign).

The campaign is asking for legislative change, guaranteeing that public sector menus offer at least 1 vegan option on every menu, every day.

The Vegan Society petitioned the UK Government to implement this measure with the petition closing in March 2019 with 27,211 signatures. The petition can be found here: <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/228078>.

It would be great if you could support the campaign by offering your public endorsement for the multiple reasons explained below.

For the avoidance of doubt, veganism is a way of living which seeks to exclude, as far as is possible and practicable, all forms of exploitation of, and cruelty to, animals for food, clothing or any other purpose. Vegan food has benefits that can be enjoyed by everyone and we would like to see good vegan food available across the public sector in the UK.

Below we have listed the major reasons for you to get behind our campaign for guaranteed vegan options in the public sector:

**Inclusive**

More people of all ages are making the decision to live vegan, with the number in the UK quadrupling in the last 4 years.

We have been contacted by many people who have had to survive on crisps after an operation in hospital, patients who have discharged themselves early to get something to eat and primary school children who are missing out on free school meals as their school has nothing they can eat. Clearly, the state is failing these citizens currently.

Veganism has been found to come within the scope of international human rights provisions and vegans in the UK are protected under human rights and equality law. This means that service providers have an obligation to ensure that they do not interfere with a vegan’s right to freedom of conscience, and a responsibility under the Equality Act 2010 to avoid any discrimination on the grounds of veganism.

This equality extends to the provision of suitable food, and we would like to see tasty, nutritious, appropriate vegan meals on daily menus in all our public sector institutions. Vegan food can be enjoyed by almost everyone, including vegetarians, and meat-eaters who are seeking to reduce their consumption of animal products for health and/or environmental reasons. Vegan food can easily be adapted to be suitable for people with religious dietary requirements (e.g. halal or kosher) or as is often the case, accepted as suitable by definition, by people following those religious dietary requirements.

**Sustainable**

Increasing vegan food provision will support environmental initiatives; a vegan diet can reduce a person’s food related carbon emissions by up to 50%.

In June last year, researchers from Oxford University conducted a landmark study and suggested that eating a vegan diet could be the “single biggest way” to reduce your environmental impact on earth. Wider access to vegan food could lead to more environmentally-friendly longer-term diet choices.

The UN has also urged a global move towards a meat and dairy free diet for the benefit of our planet, and the UK has the opportunity to lead the way.

**Healthy**

Both the British Dietetic Association and the American Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics recognise that totally plant-based diets are suitable for every age and life stage, including pregnant women, breastfeeding women and young infants.

The Vegan Society can help local catering teams to build vegan meal plans. They have an in-house dietitian who can help with balanced meals and answer any questions that catering providers may have. They also provide resources for services users and providers across the public sector [here](https://www.vegansociety.com/take-action/campaigns/catering-everyone/information-news).

It’s easy to produce tasty options that are rich in fibre and low in saturated fat, provide multiple servings of fruit and vegetables, and exclude processed meat, which the World Health Organisation has classified as a cause of cancer. In addition, some research has linked vegan diets with lower blood pressure and cholesterol, as well as lower rates of heart disease, type 2 diabetes and some types of cancer. Building familiarity with vegan food in public sector settings could help address some of the many diet-related public health crises currently putting strain on the NHS.

It would be great if you can support the campaign for the reasons above. Myself and representatives from The Vegan Society would love the opportunity to meet with you to discuss the campaign, please let me know if you are able to arrange a meeting with us.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours sincerely

YOUR NAME