Dear [councillor name]

I am writing to you as a local resident living at [include the street you live on and postcode so they know you’re a genuine constituent] to urge you to improve the provision for vegan catering in [name of your local council/region where you live].

[Please explain to your councillor when you became vegan and what motivated you – e.g. climate, animals, health, etc., - as this will help the councillor to engage with you as a person. If you’re not vegan, explain why this topic is important to you. Perhaps you believe in reducing meat and dairy consumption for environmental reasons and want to see more choices available. Between 3 and 5 sentences works best.]

I am writing to tell you about a report launched by The Vegan Society, who have collected new data showing how many councils: are taking steps to be inclusive of vegans; currently provide vegan options consistently on their menus or when catering in other settings for which they are responsible; and are going further to reduce meat and dairy consumption. [Add how your council was ranked: red/amber/green/na. You can even add examples of what the council is not doing from their freedom of information response, if you like.]

The research has found that over a quarter of councils did not acknowledge their responsibility to consider veganism as a protected characteristic when making catering decisions. In the UK, veganism is recognised as a protected belief and councils have a responsibility to provide adequate options for those who choose to live a vegan lifestyle.

Further to this, there are many environmental and health-related reasons why councils should be promoting vegan food throughout the public sector. Research in the journal Nature found that a vegan diet can reduce the amount of food-related emissions an individual produces by 75%[1]. With the vast majority of local councils declaring a climate emergency, it is vital that [your local council name] does everything it can to support local people who wish to practice a vegan diet or make more sustainable choices. Wholefood vegan diets are often healthier too, with the British Dietetic Association and the NHS both recognising that well-planned vegan diets can support healthy living at all ages. Increasing vegan food options in public sector settings could help more people to choose them, and address some of the many diet-related public health crises affecting the UK and putting additional strain on the NHS.

To improve the provision of vegan food, [council name] could consider taking more steps such as:

- Leading by example and offering one (or more) vegan meals every day in the council canteen and any other sites that [council name] is responsible for.

- Using [council name]’s influence on public sector institutions in the local area to encourage better vegan provision, such as through the public procurement process in local schools and leisure centres, or by collaborating with the health board.

- Considering bringing a motion to make [council name] a supporter of vegan food across our public services.

- Setting ambitious meat and dairy reduction targets to help with a transition to more sustainable food systems.

- Signing the Plant Based Treaty: [www.plantbasedtreaty.org](http://www.plantbasedtreaty.org)

Please would you commit to reading The Vegan Society’s Catering for Everyone report: [www.vegansociety.com/catering-for-everyone-report](http://www.vegansociety.com/catering-for-everyone-report) [and to meeting with me to discuss what action we can take to improve].

[Thank your councillor for reading your email]

[Your name]

References:

Scarborough P, Clark M, Cobiac L, Papier K, Knuppel A, Lynch J, Harrington R, Key T and Springmann M. Vegans, Vegetarians, fish-eaters, and meat-eaters in the UK show discrepant environmental impacts. Nature Food 2023; 3: 565–574, <https://doi.org/10.1038/s43016-023-00795-w> (accessed 18/08/2023)