**Revised eligibility criteria for free school meals in Wales due to the rollout of Universal Credit**

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| **Consultation response form** | Your name:  Organisation (if applicable):  e-mail/telephone number:  Your address: |

Responses should be returned by **14 September 2018** to

Pupil Wellbeing Branch

Support for Learners Division

The Education Directorate

Welsh Government

Cathays Park

Cardiff

CF10 3NQ

or completed electronically and sent to:

e-mail: [FreeSchoolMealsConsultation@gov.wales](mailto:FreeSchoolMealsConsultation@gov.wales)

**Question 1(a)** – We are proposing a net earnings threshold of £7,400 per annum to determine eligibility for free school meals under Universal Credit. We should have a net earnings threshold. Do you:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Agree** |  | **Disagree** |  | **Neither agree nor disagree** |  |

**Question 1(b)** – The net earnings threshold of £7,400 per annum is appropriate. Do you:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Agree** |  | **Disagree** |  | **Neither agree nor disagree** |  |

**Question 1(c)** – Is there anything else we need to take into account in setting the earned income threshold, which has not been covered in the consultation document?

**Supporting comments**

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**Question 2(a)** – Pupils who are eligible at the point the threshold is introduced in January 2019, and new claimants under the threshold who gain FSM during the rollout of UC, should have their entitlement to FSM protected. Do you:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Agree** |  | **Disagree** |  | **Neither agree nor disagree** |  |

**Question 2(b)** – Is there anything else we need to take into account in terms of protecting families affected by the change, which has not been covered in the consultation document?

**Supporting comments**

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**Question 3** – Do you think there is anything else we need to take into account, which has not been covered in the consultation document?

**Supporting comments**

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**Question 4** – We would like to know your views on the effects that amending the eligibility criteria for free school meals would have on the Welsh language, specifically on:

1. opportunities for people to use Welsh
2. treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.

What effects do you think there would be? How could positive effects be increased, or negative effects be mitigated?

**Supporting comments**

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**Question 5** – Please also explain how you believe the proposed policy amending the eligibility criteria for free school meals could be formulated or changed so as to have:

1. positive effects or increased positive effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language
2. no adverse effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.

**Supporting comments**

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**Question 6** – We have asked a number of specific questions. If you have any related issues which we have not specifically addressed, please use this space to report them.

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| Responses to consultations are likely to be made public, on the internet or in a report. If you would prefer your response to remain anonymous, please tick here: |  |