JEREMY QUIN MPMember of Parliament for Horsham



11th November 2016

Der Contetent,
RE: CHILDHOOD OBESITY

Thank you for contacting me about the Government's plan to tackle childhood obesity.

With nearly a third of children aged two to fifteen overweight or obese, I agree that this is an important issue to tackle.

I am delighted that the Government has launched a programme to curb childhood obesity, which urges industry to cut the amount of sugar in food and drinks while investing millions of pounds into school sport.

Sugary drinks are the single biggest source of sugar for children. To help combat this, the new plan will see the food and drinks industry working towards a 20 per cent reduction in the sugar used in products popular with children, including a five per cent reduction in year one. This can be done through cutting sugar levels, making portions smaller or encouraging the uptake of lower sugar alternatives.

This will sit alongside the new Soft Drinks Industry Levy, which is designed to encourage soft drink producers and importers to reduce the amount of sugar in their products and to move consumers towards healthier alternatives. The money raised from the forthcoming levy will be invested in programmes to reduce obesity and encourage physical activity and balanced diets for school children.

The Government is absolutely committed to reducing childhood obesity and one of the best ways to do this is to boost sports in schools. That is why the plan also asks primary schools to help every pupil get at least 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity a day.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

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