



The Business Services Association
130 Fleet Street,
London.
EC4A 2BH

Philip Shelley, Esq.,
Chair of the NHS Food Review,
c/o Department of Health and Social Care,
39 Victoria Street,
London. SW1H 0EU

31 October 2019

Dear Philip,

Thank you for meeting with members of the BSA to discuss the latest work of the NHS Food Review. This is a welcome opportunity to assess and evaluate the food provided in NHS facilities for patients, visitors and staff.

As articulated during the meeting, BSA members are eager to continue to engage with this review and to provide insights and assistance where appropriate. With this in mind, we would like to provide the following observations.

We are concerned that the current timeframe may not allow for a comprehensive 'root and branch' review of food provided in NHS facilities. Given the opportunity that this review represents, it would be a shame if the quality of the outcome were to be constricted by procedural considerations such as the imposed timeframe. We would therefore suggest that the deadline for the publication of the review's findings be extended to ensure that the review team has sufficient time in which to conduct a comprehensive assessment of this crucial issue.

Whilst we would like to express our support for the review team's survey of patients' views, in collaboration with The Patients Association, we are concerned that the results of the survey may arrive too late to influence the report given the short timeframe.

We therefore ask that the review team utilise the existing data produced by contractors which provide detailed insights into patients' experience of the food provided in the NHS. To this end we have submitted anonymised examples of members' recent surveys and the data these collected in the hope that this will be of use to your team.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Fox
Chief Executive, BSA - The Business Services Association