



Our ref: WQ88686

Darren Millar MS  
Senedd Constituency Member for Clwyd West

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28 July 2023

Dear Darren,

Thank you for your recent written question asking what consideration the Welsh Government has given to the decision by the World Health Organisation's International Agency for Research on Cancer to list aspartame as a substance which is possibly carcinogenic to humans.

Aspartame, like all food additives, is subject to food additives legislation, which establishes conditions of use. Food additives are regulated by a positive list and therefore require specific authorisation before they can be used.

The report you refer to is one of two released by the World Health Organisation (WHO) last week on aspartame.

The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) working group report classified aspartame as possibly carcinogenic to humans based on limited evidence for cancer in humans.

The second report from the Joint Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA) looked specifically at the risk assessment. Overall, the Committee concluded that there was no convincing evidence from experimental animal or human data that aspartame has adverse effects after ingestion, and that there is no justification to change the current acceptable daily intake limits.

The Food Standards Agency who advises Welsh Ministers on food safety matters has considered both reports. JECFA's report supports the FSA's view that aspartame is safe to consume at current permitted use levels. While the IARC report finds that evidence of an

association between aspartame consumption and cancer in humans is limited, the FSA welcomes the WHO's call for more and better studies to help increase understanding of this issue.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. E. Morgan'.

**Eluned Morgan AS/MS**

Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol  
Minister for Health and Social Services