

LS/EM/PW

6th September 2021

Patrick Harvie MSP
Lorna Slater MSP
Co-Leaders
Scottish Green Party

Dear Patrick and Lorna,

On behalf of the STUC Women's Committee, I wish to extend our congratulations to the Scottish Greens on your historic co-operation agreement with the Scottish Government and your appointment as Ministers.

As you will be aware, the STUC Women's Committee has been campaigning to expand Universal Free School Meals (UFSMs) provision to all in Scotland. The Committee were delighted that the Scottish Greens unequivocally supported our Campaign for UFSM expansion, committed to UFSM expansion for all in your 2021 Scottish Parliament Manifesto, with all Scottish Green Parliamentarians co-signing our letter on 16th August 2021 outlining our call to the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills.

Regrettably, in correspondence from the Cabinet Secretary this week, the Scottish Government has indicated that it is not committed to expanding Universal Free School Meals to secondary school pupils, and additionally, that it is unable to accelerate provision to primary 5 – 7s before 2022.

The Women's Committee has written back to the Cabinet Secretary in strong terms, and I attach a copy of our response for your consideration, together with a copy of the Cabinet Secretary's letter.

/.....

2.

Patrick Harvie MSP
Lorna Slater MSP
6th September 2021

We would ask that having read the letter you would be willing to assist our campaign further in your new position within Government, using your enhanced influence towards winning the fight to expand Universal Free School Meals provision in Scotland. You will see from the terms of our letter to the Cabinet Secretary that we consider this an urgent matter and would wish to see it addressed within the forthcoming Programme for Government.

We thank you once again for your support to date and hope that you will utilise your new position and position of power to help bring about this policy change. We know that expanding Universal Free School Meals to all has the potential to support families, transform lives, contribute to reducing the attainment gap, improve whole-school approaches to nutrition and welling, and create jobs.

Yours sincerely,

Brenda Carson
On Behalf of the STUC Women's Committee

Encs