

**From:** lena sierakowska [mailto:lenainscotland@yahoo.co.uk]  
**Sent:** 02 July 2009 16:03  
**To:** goodchn@moray.gov.uk  
**Cc:** admin.cabrachp@moray-edunet.gov.uk; Richard.Lochhead.msp@scottish.parliament.uk; ihemy@yahoo.co.uk; ajones@supplychainlogic.co.uk; Fiona Murdoch  
**Subject:** Cabrach school Lunches comments for consultation

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Dear Mr. Goodchild,

Mrs Jones and myself attended the lunch brought up from Dufftown on Tuesday. Mrs Baxter has since departed the area with her family and did not attend. The meal was satisfactory in all respects however we do have some grave concerns about the removal of the school cook from Cabrach Primary.

#### 1. Health and Safety.

The meal will have to be served and cleared away by a lunch supervisor who will have to be employed at extra cost. The children are quite young, in September - the ages will range from 4 to 8 and cannot serve themselves. Mrs. Cummings, the play assistant, needs to give her full attention to the children over the lunch break and we think it would be unreasonable and unsafe for her to have to do 2 jobs at once. She cannot be supervising children in the playground and dealing with spilt food inside at the same time. I understand she is not willing to undertake extra lunchtime duties. I find it remiss that she was not invited to the meeting we all had at the school a few weeks ago.

#### 2. Weather.

It is well known that the Cabrach can experience very severe weather in the winter months. This last February - we were cut off for 12 days. It was 8 days before a snowplough arrived and even for a week after that - it was only safe to traverse the Balloch pass with 4x4 vehicle. We would like to know what arrangements would be put into place in the event of this happening again. Can we be guaranteed a 4X4 taxi/ helicopter to deliver food?

In the previous winter - there were several days when Cabrach school was open and Mortlake was not. Where would the meals come from in the event of this happening again?

#### 3. Social and Nutritional Aspects.

Several of the parents felt that it was part of our childrens education to see food freshly cooked on the premises and served by a person who is a well liked and respected member of our community and school. Many children in this day and age only see food arrive in plastic boxes or as microwave meals.

#### 4. Cost.

I fail to see that there would be any saving once a taxi has been paid for and a lunchtime assistant. I assume that Moray council has made some calculations on this point. Could we please see them?

These cut backs have obviously been in the pipeline for a while. Could you therefore explain why the school kitchen was refurbished at a massive cost earlier on this year? That's what I would call a total waste of money. This is just disorganised incompetence. The council had just assumed that Cabrach school would have been closed by now and out of oversight we were left out of the first round of talks about closing the school kitchens. You were not allowed to close us down so now you are just chipping away at anything else possible.

I'd also like to know what the cost is of this " Be bright campaign " run by the council regarding school meals. You can't afford to keep the kitchen open but you can spend thousands sending out leaflets, games and fuzzy toys. I'd rather that my children had a fresh meal cooked on the premises than come home with a bunch of junk.

The saving we are talking about is so small - I really cannot see it amounting to more than 1-2000 pounds. Moray council made a pledge in the 2020 agreement to support rural communities. They honour this pledge by making our school cook redundant !

Yours Sincerely  
Helena Sierakowska  
Anna Jones