



Kerry McCarthy, MP,
326a Church Road,
St George,
Bristol,
BS5 8AJ.

September 12th 2019

Dear Ms McCarthy,

I'm writing on behalf of the Baby Feeding Law Group UK to thank you for your questions of September 9th to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, in relation to legislation for breastfeeding women in the workplace and actions to decrease the promotion of breastmilk substitutes to protect breastfeeding.

Despite Mim Davies' response, we share a concern that current legal protection for breastfeeding women returning to work is inadequate. We believe that ACAS guidance should be made statutory, legally requiring all employers to conduct risk assessments, grant flexible working requests and provide a clean and private space and paid breaks at work for employees to breastfed and/or express breastmilk and manage its safe storage

<https://www.acas.org.uk/media/3924/Accommodating-breastfeeding-employees-in-the-workplace/pdf/Acas-guide-on-accommodating-breastfeeding-in-the-workplace.pdf>.

We are glad to have confirmed from Mim Davies' response that the UK government intends to 'mirror' the new delegated regulations (EU) 2016/127 which will apply in 2020, assuming the content will be at minimum, identical. However, we remain concerned that the current Infant Formula and Follow on Formula (2007) regulations (as per delegated act 2006/141/EC) remain poorly enforced, and, even with these forthcoming changes, are too weak, enabling cross-promotion of infant formula through the promotion of follow on formula and other branded products. Contrary to what Mim Davies' suggests, we do not believe that current laws do give effect to the principles and aims of the WHO International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes to prevent the inappropriate promotion of infant formula. And they certainly do not tackle the inappropriate marketing of other breastmilk substitutes, including for example, follow on formula and baby foods. We are calling for UK regulations on the marketing of infant formula and follow on formula to be upgraded and extended in line with the WHO Code and all subsequent World Health Assembly resolutions.

Baby Feeding Law Group UK Members:

Association of Breastfeeding Mothers (ABM), Association for Improvements in the Maternity Services (AIMS), Baby Milk Action, Best Beginnings, Breastfeeding Network (BfN), Community Practitioners and Health Visitors Association (CPHVA), Doula UK, First Steps Nutrition Trust, GP Infant Feeding Network (GPIFN), HENRY, Hospital Infant Feeding Network (HIFN), Human Milk Foundation, Institute of Health Visiting, Lactation Consultants GB (LCGB), La Leche League GB (LLLGB), Leicester Mammias, Local Infant Feeding Information Board (LIFIB), Make Birth Better, Midwives Information and Resource Service (MIDIRS), National Breastfeeding Helpline, NCT, Royal College of Midwives (RCM), UK Association of Milk Banking (UKAMB), Unicef UK Baby Friendly Initiative, Unison, World Breastfeeding Trends Initiative.

Secretariat 2019: vicky@firststepsnutrition.org.



If you would be interested to read more about the Baby Feeding Law Group and our calls, you can find out more at www.bflg-uk.org.uk. If you would like to discuss these matters further, or find out any more about the BFLG-UK, do please get in touch with me at vicky@firststepsnutrition.org

Yours sincerely

Victoria Sibson

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