

CAROLYN THOMAS

NORTH WALES | GOGLEDD CYMRU



The Rt. Hon. Kwasi Kwarteng MP
Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
1 Victoria Street
London
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Monday 8th November 2021

Dear Rt. Hon. Kwasi Kwarteng MP,

Re: Doors on Supermarket Fridges to Increase Energy Efficiency

I am writing to you as Member of the Senedd for North Wales in relation to the provision of doors on fridges in UK supermarkets. Currently, many supermarket chains across the UK do not use doors on their refrigerated aisles, which leads to poor energy efficiency, subsequently damaging the environment with excess carbon.

The Environmental Investigation Agency has said that supermarkets could cut their electricity bills by an average of 33% by adding doors to their fridges. This could see the whole of the UK cut its total electricity usage by 1%. UK supermarkets use 1.5 million kWh of energy a year, with their fridges using between 60-70% of this.

The current UK government position of encouraging supermarkets to improve their energy efficiency is simply not enough. Refrigeration researchers believe that fridges with doors outperform even the most efficient open cabinet technology.

Some supermarkets have said that people may be less likely to impulse buy products if there is a barrier between them and the product, thus affecting their sales. Impulse buying often leads to food waste, which is further damaging to the environment and is not a practice that should be encouraged.

I am delighted that Friends of the Earth Cymru and Glamorgan cricketer Joe Cooke are campaigning here in Wales to bring about this important change to protect our environment. I am also pleased to see that Aldi has pledged to implement fridge doors in all of their new UK stores.

Wales has already led the way in this field. We were the first county in the UK to introduce a plastic bag charge in 2011; a policy which was then implemented by the UK government following its success in reducing plastic waste.

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In light of the climate crisis we face, the UK government should be putting environmental protection ahead of consumerism, waste and private profit. The implementation of fridge doors on UK supermarket fridges is a simple solution which would reduce the UK's carbon output considerably. It should form part of an ambitious Green New Deal, aimed at helping the UK become net-zero by 2030.

I would welcome your commitment to legislating for the installation of fridge doors in UK supermarkets to ensure that the UK is able to begin to make the changes required in order to halt climate change.

Yours Sincerely,



Carolyn Thomas
Member of the Senedd for North Wales