



House of Commons  
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**DAIRY ALL-PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP**

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The Rt Hon Philip Hammond MP  
Chancellor of the Exchequer  
HM Treasury  
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**Soft drinks industry levy and milk-based drinks**

On behalf of the Dairy All-Party Parliamentary Group, I would like to congratulate HM Treasury for recognising the exceptional nutritional value of dairy foods by exempting milk-based drinks from the soft drinks industry levy.

Last year, the Dairy APPG published a report on dairy products and public health following a lengthy inquiry and with evidence from UK and international experts. A very large body of evidence suggests that the consumption of dairy products does not have a negative effect on weight and could even have a beneficial impact. Even with a small amount of added sugars, the overall nutritional value of flavoured dairy products compared to other categories is exceptional and it is crucial that nutrient-rich dairy products should remain attractive options to children and teenagers.

Dairy companies have been reformulating their products for years to meet consumer expectations for low-calorie products and, in view of Public Health England's reformulation programme, the added sugar content is expected to decrease even further in the next four years.

Regrettably, the Health Select Committee recently called for the extension of the sugar levy to milk-based drinks with added sugar. These products can be an important source of essential nutrients for children who do not consume plain milk on a regular basis and should not be assimilated with nutrient-poor soft drinks.

Extending the sugar levy to nutritious dairy drinks would send a negative message to consumers as well as to UK farmers and manufacturers who work around the clock to produce healthy and wholesome foods for families across the country. I am therefore grateful for HM Treasury's stance on this issue and its support for the dairy industry.

Simon Hoare MP  
Chair of the Dairy APPG

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