**Sample Letter: Hospital, Vegan Food Provision**

This letter has been written as a complaint following a hospital stay during which good vegan food was not provided, but it can also be adapted to request vegan food provision in advance of a planned hospital stay.

Dear Sir/Madam [for complaints for failure to provide, it would be best to address it to their Legal Department as it is pointing out that vegan rights are not being respected; for requests for confirmation that vegan food will be provided during an up-coming stay it might be more appropriately addressed to the ward catering manager]

I am writing to advise you that during my recent stay at [name of hospital] I was not provided with food that is suitable for vegans, despite having requested it.

[More detail of the position you were put in – were you told they had no suitable food or did they have a vegan menu but none of it was available etc? / what did you have to do as a result of the lack of provision]

Veganism is a way of living which seeks to exclude, as far as is possible and practicable, all forms of exploitation and killing of animals for food, clothing or any other purpose. I live my life according to this moral philosophy. This means that I do not consume animals or anything taken from an animal: animal or fish flesh, animal milk or other dairy products, eggs or honey.

My right to live according to my fundamental conviction that it is wrong to use and kill non-human animals is protected under human rights law and equality law. This means that service providers have an obligation not to interfere with my right to live according to my conviction, and to avoid any discrimination or harassment on the grounds of veganism. For more information about the legal rights of vegans please see: <https://goveganworld.com/vegan-rights/> By failing to provide vegan food [name of hospital] is in breach of my legal rights by indirectly discriminating against me.

I appreciate that the health service works with a tight budget and that it must cater to all, but it is entirely possible to provide good vegan food within a strict budget and many hospitals already do so without difficulty. There is no justification for failing to provide for vegans.

Moreover, as a public entity [name of entity] is bound by the Public Sector Equality Duty, which requires them to have due regard for the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equal opportunity and foster good relations, including by taking steps to meet the needs of people from protected groups. It would be in line with this duty to look at adding good, tasty, nutritious plant-based meals to your standard menus every day, available to everyone. Moreover, as a public entity [name of entity] is bound by the Public Sector Equality Duty, which requires them to have due regard for the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equal opportunity and foster good relations, including by taking steps to meet the needs of people from protected groups. It would be in line with this duty to incorporate nutritious plant-based meals on all your standard menus every day, as vegans would not have to make special requests, there would be less likelihood of error and everyone would have the option of good vegan meals. Food that is suitable for vegans is inclusive and in general can be enjoyed by everyone. It can also be highly nutritious with all of the leading dietetic associations recognising that fully plant-based diets are suitable for every age and life stage.

Plant foods are much more sustainable, environment and climate friendly, which is why the public sector is being urged by climate change policy advisors to lead the way in a shift to plant-based eating, by including good vegan options on its standard menus every day, available to everyone.

The Vegan Society can help your catering team to add good vegan options to your menus. They have an in-house dietitian who can help with balanced meals and answer any questions you may have. You can contact Heather Russell on nutrition@vegansociety.com. They also have resources for caterers here: <https://www.vegansociety.com/cateringforeveryone>.

I hope you will acknowledge that I should have been provided with vegan options during my stay and that you will agree that vegan options ought to be offered to everyone every day.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

[your name]