

National Good Food Nation Plan: Consultation Document

January 2024

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Introduction

The Scottish Government is developing the national Good Food Nation Plan. This is a requirement of the [Good Food Nation \(Scotland\) Act 2022](#), which was passed in Summer 2022. This Good Food Nation Plan is intended to set out the Scottish Government's goals for food policy and how it intends to achieve them.

Our food system is a source of incredible success: the Scottish food and drink sector generates turnover of around £15 billion per annum, and exports of Scottish food and drink were valued at £8.1 billion in 2022. Our fantastic food industry provides employment from the local farmers' market to the export of Scotland's finest produce across the globe. This success contributes positively to the wellbeing of the food and drink workforce, while also making it easier for the population to access healthy food options. Food enables a healthy population to enjoy life to its fullest. Our establishment of the Good Food Nation body of work recognises this and the importance of Scotland's food and drink sector not only to our economy, but also to our culture, heritage, and society.

Food is fundamental to everything we do, but it can be taken for granted and the supply chain that produces it is sometimes overlooked. Whilst there is much to celebrate in our food system, there are also challenges that we must meet head-on: our food system and the people who work in the food sector need and deserve stewardship and care. A key aim of our work to be a Good Food Nation is to shift the dial so people can make healthier choices in what they eat.

We know that many households in Scotland experience food insecurity on a regular basis or are intermittently worried about being able to access food. Diet-related ill health is also more pervasive in communities experiencing deprivation. In striving to achieve our Good Food Nation ambitions we must do so for all communities and leave no one behind. Reducing socio-economic and other inequalities is part of being a Good Food Nation. When creating future food policy to align with the overarching outcomes set out in this plan, consideration of such inequalities needs to be a key focus to avoid unintended consequences.

The Scottish Government is already taking action to reduce inequality; provide greater food resilience and security; enable healthy and local food choices; and support our food and drink sector, all while working towards our net zero goals. However, making important and necessary long-term changes to our food system and achieving ambitious food-related goals will take time. As things stand, the Scottish Government does not have full control of all the levers that can be used to influence all aspects of the food system and people's ability to access healthier food. The impact of Brexit has also been significant: as the UK now sits outwith the EU it is required to conduct its own trade negotiations. Scotland's ability to influence its food system is thus further limited by the fact that we are not represented in our own right at these international-level discussions and negotiations.

An independent Scotland would have full control over all the levers and resources linked to food policy, which would have a material effect on what we can achieve and how quickly. We are publishing a series of papers on the subject of [Building A New Scotland](#): these papers form our prospectus for an independent Scotland and set out many issues linked to food.

This first Good Food Nation Plan represents how the Scottish Government intends to use the powers and levers we do have to work collectively with people, communities, businesses, agencies and organisations to meet our Good Food Nation ambitions.

The first draft national Good Food Nation Plan sets out the following:

- Part One outlines the history of the Good Food Nation in Scotland and highlights how the plan will take effect. This part does not form part of this consultation, but it provides relevant background information.
- Part Two proposes a set of six national Good Food Nation Outcomes, and sets out how they were developed and how progress will be measured. We will ask you questions about the Outcomes as well as the measures.
- Part Three highlights how working mechanisms within government will change, and presents some of the key food related policies that are currently under way. It also presents what life would be like for different groups of people under a Good Food Nation. We are particularly interested in understanding if we have captured correctly what life should be like in a Good Food Nation.

This consultation seeks views on all three Parts of the draft national Plan, and we hope you and others will take part. As part of this consultation we are also seeking views on specified functions, which will be defined in secondary legislation. Specified functions are very important as it is when Scottish Ministers are exercising these functions that the plan will take effect. Questions on specified functions will be asked after the section on the national Good Food Nation Plan. You can choose to respond to some or all of these questions.

Consultation Overview

Why your views matter

The first national Good Food Nation Plan is the first of many steps to progress food system transformation in Scotland.

This consultation covers the content of the first national Good Food Nation Plan and asks your views on the national Good Food Nation Outcomes; ways of measuring progress; and how different groups envision life in a Good Food Nation.

It also asks your views on specified functions: we would like to know if the list of specified functions covers all relevant elements of food-related issues Scottish Ministers have competence over, and whether we have missed any important subjects.

We will take feedback from this consultation on board to make sure the national Good Food Nation Plan is in line with what kind of food system the population of Scotland would like to see.

What are we asking of you?

We are asking you to respond to 20 questions. Most are multiple choice but you will also have the opportunity to explain your answers in more detail.

Responding to this Consultation

We are inviting responses to this consultation by 22 April 2024.

Please respond to this consultation using the Scottish Government's consultation hub, Citizen Space (<http://consult.gov.scot>). Access and respond to this consultation online at <https://consult.gov.scot/agriculture-and-rural-economy/national-good-food-nation-plan>. You can save and return to your responses while the consultation is still open. Please ensure that consultation responses are submitted before the closing date of 22 April 2024.

If you are unable to respond using our consultation hub, please complete the Respondent Information Form and return to:

GOOD FOOD NATION TEAM
Scottish Government
B1 SPUR
SAUGHTON HOUSE
EDINBURGH, EH11 3XD

Handling your response

If you respond using the consultation hub, you will be directed to the About You page before submitting your response. Please indicate how you wish your response to be handled and, in particular, whether you are content for your response to be published. If you ask for your response not to be published, we will regard it as confidential, and we will treat it accordingly.

All respondents should be aware that the Scottish Government is subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 and would therefore have to consider any request made to it under the Act for information relating to responses made to this consultation exercise.

If you are unable to respond via Citizen Space, please complete and return the Respondent Information Form included in this document.

To find out how we handle your personal data, please see our privacy policy:

<https://www.gov.scot/privacy/>

Next steps in the process

Where respondents have given permission for their response to be made public, and after we have checked that they contain no potentially defamatory material, responses will be made available to the public at <http://consult.gov.scot>. If you use the consultation hub to respond, you will receive a copy of your response via email.

Following the closing date, all responses will be analysed and considered along with any other available evidence to help us. Responses will be published where we have been given permission to do so. An analysis report will also be made available.

Comments and complaints

If you have any comments about how this consultation exercise has been conducted, please send them to the contact address above or at goodfoodnation@gov.scot

Scottish Government consultation process

Consultation is an essential part of the policymaking process. It gives us the opportunity to consider your opinion and expertise on a proposed area of work.

You can find all our consultations online: <http://consult.gov.scot>. Each consultation details the issues under consideration, as well as a way for you to give us your views, either online, by email or by post.

Responses will be analysed and used as part of the decision making process, along with a range of other available information and evidence. We will publish a report of this analysis for every consultation. Depending on the nature of the consultation exercise the responses received may:

- indicate the need for policy development or review
- inform the development of a particular policy
- help decisions to be made between alternative policy proposals
- be used to finalise legislation before it is implemented

While details of particular circumstances described in a response to a consultation exercise may usefully inform the policy process, consultation exercises cannot address individual concerns and comments, which should be directed to the relevant public body.

Part A: Consultation on the national Good Food Nation Plan

In collaboration with colleagues across the Scottish Government we have developed a set of six overarching Outcomes. These Outcomes are ambitious and not meant to be achieved within the first iteration of this plan. They are necessarily broad in nature as they are designed to be applicable to policies from across a wide range of areas.

The Outcomes serve as the high-level aspirations for a good food nation: they are not a list of detailed instructions.

They reflect that there is a continued need to adjust how food is produced, processed, distributed, and disposed of in Scotland to address the undeniable challenges of climate change and environmental degradation. This transition to a more sustainable food system also needs to be managed in a just and fair manner. This includes taking the people who work to put food on our tables along with us and demonstrating our commitment to continuous improvement in animal welfare. They also acknowledge that everyone deserves dignified access to good food and that our food system should create a healthy population.

The Outcomes represent what we would like a sustainable food system in Scotland to look like. The Outcomes link to other overarching policy frameworks such as the [National Performance Framework](#) and the [United Nations Sustainable Development Goals](#). The Outcomes also link to relevant international human rights instruments.

Question 1

Does each individual Good Food Nation Outcome describe the kind of Scottish food system you would like to see?

Outcome 1: Everyone in Scotland eats well with reliable access to safe, nutritious, affordable, sustainable, and age and culturally appropriate food.

- Strongly agree
- Mostly agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Mostly disagree
- Strongly disagree

Outcome 2: Scotland's food system is sustainable¹ and contributes to a flourishing natural environment. It supports our net zero ambitions, and plays an important role in maintaining and improving animal welfare and in restoring and regenerating biodiversity.

- Strongly agree
- Mostly agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Mostly disagree
- Strongly disagree

Outcome 3: Scotland's food system encourages a physically and mentally healthy population, leading to a reduction in diet-related conditions.

- Strongly agree
- Mostly agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Mostly disagree
- Strongly disagree

Outcome 4: Our food and drink sector is prosperous, diverse, innovative, and vital to national and local economic and social wellbeing. It is key to making Scotland food secure and food resilient, and creates and sustains jobs and businesses underpinned by fair work standards.

- Strongly agree
- Mostly agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Mostly disagree

¹ According to the [Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations](#) a "sustainable food system is one that delivers food security and nutrition for all in such a way that the economic, social and environmental bases to generate food security and nutrition for future generation is not compromised."

Strongly disagree

Outcome 5: Scotland has a thriving food culture with a population who are interested in and educated about good and sustainable food.

Strongly agree

Mostly agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Mostly disagree

Strongly disagree

Outcome 6: Scotland has a global reputation for high-quality food that we want to continue to grow. Decisions we make in Scotland contribute positively to local and global food systems transformation. We share and learn from best practice internationally.

Strongly agree

Mostly agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Mostly disagree

Strongly disagree

Question 2

What, if anything, would you change about the Good Food Nation Outcomes and why?

Good Food Nation Measures

We need to know if we are making progress towards achieving the ambitious outcomes we have set ourselves. As such we have identified a set of indicators and targets that are already in existence and will demonstrate our progress towards the new outcomes.

We will develop further ways of measuring progress as our work on Good Food Nation continues and are interested in understanding what you think of the measures we have so far. Targets and indicators will continue to evolve during the life of the national Good Food Nation Plan and future iterations will contain updated indicators and targets.

A target is a goal that you are trying to achieve. A target often refers to something specific that needs to happen by a certain time. Targets are often set by governments to set measurable goals on specific topics.

An indicator is a way to measure something, often progress towards a target; set goal or outcome. Indicators can be useful to measure progress on a target or more general outcomes.

The table below sets out our existing indicators and other measures. We have been working to identify new targets or commitments that can be included in the Plan, these are:

Extend current diet and healthy weight commitments:

The Scottish Government has an existing target aiming to halve childhood obesity by 2030. We propose to extend this to:

- To aim to halve childhood obesity by 2030 and significantly reduce associated diet-related inequalities.

We will also widen the reach beyond children by committing to aim to:

- Increase levels of adult healthy weight
- Reduce adult diet-related health inequalities.

Strengthen household food insecurity commitments:

We propose to strengthen our household food insecurity commitments by aiming to:

- reduce the number of households facing moderate to severe food insecurity.
- reduce the reported number of households accessing emergency food provision

Public procurement

Further consideration will be given as to whether there are public procurement targets, taking account of the data and legislative restrictions, that could be developed for future iterations of the Plan.

Animal welfare

There is ongoing work to include a suite of animal welfare targets, informed by the findings of planned consultations, in future iterations of the national Good Food Nation Plan. There are currently Programme for Government commitments to consult on phasing out cages for gamebirds and laying hens.

Outcome	Indicators	Targets/other measures
<p>1. Everyone in Scotland eats well with reliable access to safe, nutritious, affordable, sustainable, and age and culturally appropriate food.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proportion of households experiencing household food insecurity • Number of pupils registered for free school meals • Percentage of pupils present at school taking school meals (free or paid for) • Number of day care settings and children registered to the Scottish Milk and Healthy Snack Scheme • Proportion of children in Scotland living in: relative poverty; absolute poverty; combined low income and material deprivation, and; persistent poverty (after housing costs) • Scottish Dietary Goals • Proportion of public and private sector food businesses implementing the Eating Out, Eating Well framework and code of practice for children's menus • Number of local authorities that participate in the Food for Life Scotland Programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fewer than 10% of children living in relative poverty by 2030 • Fewer than 5% of children living in absolute poverty by 2030 • Fewer than 5% of children living in combined low income and material deprivation by 2030 • Fewer than 5% of children living in persistent poverty by 2030 • Halve childhood obesity by 2030 and significantly reduce associated diet-related inequalities • Reduce adult diet-related health inequalities • Reduce the number of households facing moderate to severe food insecurity • Reduce the reported number of households accessing emergency food provision
<p>2. Scotland's food system is sustainable and contributes to a flourishing natural environment. It supports our net zero ambitions, and plays an important role in maintaining and improving animal welfare and in restoring and regenerating biodiversity.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greenhouse gas emissions produced by the agriculture sector • Use of nitrogen fertilisers • Percentage of commercial stocks fished at sustainable levels • Scottish Dietary Goals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce per capita food waste by 33% by 2025 • Aim to double the amount of farmland managed organically in Scotland by end of this parliamentary term (2026) • Existing legally binding annual emissions reduction targets including: 75% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 (compared with a 1990 baseline), and net zero emissions by 2045 • Scottish Ministers have international commitments to address biodiversity loss,

		<p>articulated in the Global Biodiversity Framework of the UN Convention on Biodiversity, which includes targets relating to reducing the global footprint of consumption, global food waste, overconsumption and waste generation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Scottish Government have made a #123 Food Loss and Waste Pledge for Climate Action
<p>3. Scotland's food system encourages a physically and mentally healthy population, leading to a reduction in diet-related conditions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of adults and children with a healthy weight • Percentage of children at risk of obesity • Percentage of adults and children consuming recommended 5 portions of fruit and vegetables each day • Number of local authorities that participate in the Food for Life Scotland Programme • Fruit and vegetable intake of children aged 2-15 • Scottish Dietary Goals • Proportion of public and private sector food businesses implementing the Eating Out, Eating Well framework and code of practice for children's menus • Number of companies investing in reformulation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce drop off in breastfeeding rates at the 6 to 8 week point by 10% by 2025 • Halve childhood obesity by 2030 and significantly reduce associated diet-related inequalities • Increase levels of adult healthy weight • Reduce adult diet-related health inequalities
<p>4. Our food and drink sector is prosperous, diverse, innovative, and vital to national and local economic and social wellbeing. It is key to making Scotland food secure and food resilient, and creates and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of people employed in the food and drink industry • Number of people employed in agriculture • Value of Scottish food and drink exports • Value added by the Scottish food and drink industry • Number of registered food and drink enterprises • Number of registered crofts • Median weekly full-time earnings across the Scottish food and drink growth sector 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Scottish Government supports the food and drink sector by providing funding for Sustaining Scotland. Supplying the World – The Food and Drink Industry Strategy

<p>sustains jobs and businesses underpinned by fair work standards.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of companies investing in reformulation 	
<p>5. Scotland has a thriving food culture with a population who are interested in and educated about good and sustainable food.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding committed to food education and community food projects • Scottish Dietary Goals • Proportion of public and private sector food businesses implementing the Eating Out, Eating Well framework and code of practice for children’s menus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Halve childhood obesity by 2030 and significantly reduce associated diet-related inequalities • Increase levels of adult healthy weight • Reduce adult diet-related health inequalities
<p>6. Scotland has a global reputation for high-quality food that we want to continue to grow. Decisions we make in Scotland contribute positively to local and global food systems transformation. We share and learn from best practice internationally.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of engagements with international colleagues on food system • Greenhouse gas emissions produced by the agriculture sector 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing legally binding annual emissions reduction targets including: 75% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 (compared with a 1990 baseline), and net zero emissions by 2045 • Scottish Ministers have international commitments to address biodiversity loss, articulated in the Global Biodiversity Framework of the UN Convention on Biodiversity, which includes targets relating to reducing the global footprint of consumption, global food waste, overconsumption and waste generation • The Scottish Government have made a #123 Food Loss and Waste Pledge for Climate Action

Question 3

Do you think that these targets will contribute to achieving the overall Good Food Nation Outcomes?

- Strongly agree
- Mostly agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Mostly disagree
- Strongly disagree
- I don't know

Question 4

Would achieving these targets contribute to making the kind of Scottish food system you would like to see?

- Strongly agree
- Mostly agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Mostly disagree
- Strongly disagree
- I don't know

Question 5

If you have other comments on the suggested Good Food Nation targets, please comment:

Question 6

Do you think these indicators will be useful for measuring progress towards the Good Food Nation Outcomes?

- Strongly agree
- Mostly agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Mostly disagree
- Strongly disagree
- I don't know

Why or why not?

Question 7

What other indicators, if any, would you like to see included?

Question 8

If you have other comments on the suggested Good Food Nation indicators, please comment:

Life in a Good Food Nation

Part Three of the Good Food Nation Plan focuses on policies that are already underway and are moving us closer to a Good Food Nation. Text boxes across the chapter highlight what life will be like for different groups of people in a Good Food Nation.

These groups were selected to reflect a broad range of roles across the food system but we cannot capture every role and experience. We would like to hear your views on these examples of what life in a Good Food Nation could look like for different groups. Please only respond if you have relevant experience of this group.

Question 9

Snapshot Box: As a child in a Good Food Nation

- I have access to healthy and nutritious food that is appropriate for my age and developmental stage
- Eating and enjoying a healthy diet is the norm for me
- I have the opportunity to participate in a variety of food-related educational experiences on a regular basis
- I will never experience hunger

Does this reflect what you think life should look like for a child in Scotland as a Good Food Nation?

- Strongly agree
- Mostly agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Mostly disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Not applicable

What changes, if any, would you make?

Question 10

Snapshot Box: As a parent/carer in a Good Food Nation

- I am knowledgeable about how to prepare healthy and nutritious meals for those in my care and empowered to do so
- I know where to go for support should I experience difficulties that prevent me from purchasing food or preparing hot food at home
- I am confident that childcare settings and schools are providing healthy, nutritious and culturally appropriate food and that they are educating children about the food system
- If I am pregnant I know where to go for support and can make fully informed choices on how to feed myself and my baby

Does this reflect what you would like your life to look like, as a parent/carer in a Good Food Nation?

- Strongly agree
- Mostly agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Mostly disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Not applicable

What changes, if any, would you make?

Question 11

Snapshot Box: As an adult in a Good Food Nation

- I can easily access food that I enjoy and that keeps me healthy and well
- I know where to go if I experience financial difficulties, and the response is fast, coordinated and meets my needs with dignity and respect
- Healthy and sustainable options are easy to find wherever I eat and buy food
- I can easily access information about the environmental, social, and nutritional impacts of my food and its provenance that helps me to make informed decisions

Does this reflect what you would like your life to look like, as an adult in a Good Food Nation?

- Strongly agree
- Mostly agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Mostly disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Not applicable

What changes, if any, would you make?

Question 12

Snapshot Box: As a public caterer in a Good Food Nation

- I procure healthy, fresh, in-season, and nutritious food to meet the needs of the people using my services
- I recognise the role that food can play in strengthening community ties. I promote and provide healthy, enjoyable, and sustainable options as the norm on my menus
- My procurement choices help to support a variety of producers
- I have reduced avoidable food waste as much as possible, and I ensure that unavoidable food waste is disposed of in a sustainable manner

Does this reflect what you would like your life to look like, as a public caterer in a Good Food Nation?

- Strongly agree
- Mostly agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Mostly disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Not applicable

What changes, if any, would you make?

Question 13

Snapshot Box: As a retailer in a Good Food Nation

- As an employer, I meet Fair Work First criteria. I ensure that all procurement contracts I enter into are fair and equitable for producers
- I create a store environment that makes healthy and nutritious options affordable and appealing for everyone. I help consumers to better understand the nutritional quality and provenance of the food I sell
- Decisions I make in store and through procurement help Scotland to achieve its net zero ambitions, for example by minimising food waste.
- I play an important role in supporting a stronger local food economy and increasing food security in Scotland

Does this reflect what you would like your life to look like, as a retailer in a Good Food Nation?

- Strongly agree
- Mostly agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Mostly disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Not applicable

What changes, if any, would you make?

Question 14

Snapshot Box: As a restaurant owner in a Good Food Nation

- I celebrate fresh, seasonal produce and integrate it into my menu. I have an active role in supporting my local food economy
- I share my passion for good food with my customers so that they become more informed about its provenance, how it's prepared and its nutritional value
- As an employer, I meet Fair Work First criteria. I create a rewarding work environment for my employees
- I am creative with my menu. This can help me to minimise food waste for the benefit of my business, people, and the environment

Does this reflect what you would like your life to look like, as a restaurant owner in a Good Food Nation?

- Strongly agree
- Mostly agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Mostly disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Not applicable

What changes, if any, would you make?

Question 15

Snapshot Box: As a farmer/crofter in a Good Food Nation

- I feel that my work is respected and that I am able to get a fair price for my produce. I can easily sell my produce locally should I wish to do so
- My farming and land management practices reduce my environmental impact, increase biodiversity and ensure high animal welfare standards on my farm or croft
- I benefit from a variety of support, including training and advice, to help me run a successful and sustainable farm or croft
- I help to build resilient supply chains and contribute to food security in Scotland

Does this reflect what you would like your life to look like, as a farmer/crofter in a Good Food Nation?

- Strongly agree
- Mostly agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Mostly disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Not applicable

What changes, if any, would you make?

Question 16

Snapshot Box: As a fisher in a Good Food Nation

- I feel that my work is respected and that I am able to get a fair price for my catch
- I support the marine environment and ecosystem with sustainable fishing practices
- I benefit from and enable a fair and safe working environment
- I seek opportunities to bring my product to a wider market in Scotland, and to promote its contribution to a healthy diet
- I can access a variety of support to help me to run a sustainable fishing business

Does this reflect what you would like your life to look like, as a fisher in a Good Food Nation?

- Strongly agree
- Mostly agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Mostly disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Not applicable

What changes, if any, would you make?

Question 17

Snapshot Box: As a food processor in a Good Food Nation

- I work with producers, wholesalers, retailers and out of home food providers to ensure resilience along the whole supply chain while meeting demand and minimising waste
- I make my products healthier and more sustainable, using fresh, seasonal ingredients where possible, and can access support to do this.
- I invest in and develop my workforce, ensuring they can enjoy opportunities to enhance their skills whilst benefiting from a safe working environment
- I contribute to the important role that the food and drink sector has in Scotland's economy

Does this reflect what you would like your life to look like, as a food processor in a Good Food Nation?

- Strongly agree
- Mostly agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Mostly disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Not applicable

What changes, if any, would you make?

Question 18

If you have any further comments on the national Good Food Nation Plan, please comment here

Part B: Consultation on specified functions for the national Good Food Nation Plan

Introduction to specified functions

Specified functions tell Ministers when they must take account of a particular policy area while carrying out governmental work. In this case, Scottish Ministers will be legally required to have regard to the national Good Food Nation Plan when carrying out any governmental work listed as a specified function. In this way the specified functions give effect to the Plan, ensuring that Scottish Ministers are considering the impact that their actions will have on future policy related to food.

The specified functions for the Good Food Nation (Scotland) Act 2022 will be set out in secondary legislation. Secondary legislation provides more information about how laws passed by Parliament will operate. We intend to introduce this secondary legislation in time for the publication of the final version of the national Good Food Nation Plan.

Why are specified functions necessary?

Specified functions make it easier for Scottish Ministers to know when they must have regard to the national Good Food Nation Plan. This is better than a general requirement to have regard to the Plan because food-related policy is very broad and, without specified functions, there may be a risk that areas of governmental work that are relevant to the Plan are overlooked.

How are the specified functions presented?

Specified functions can be presented in different ways. They can be very specific – by referencing particular sections within legislation – or they can describe an action or aim of government. We have taken a proportionate and targeted approach by including a combination of specific legislative references and descriptions of actions or aims.

Why are we consulting on specified functions?

Below is a list of specified functions we intend to set out in secondary legislation. As food-related policy covers a wide range of topics, we want your views to ensure that relevant topic areas are included. The specified functions can be updated in future, in which case the Scottish Government will go out to consultation again.

For this consultation, we have linked the specified functions to each of the six Good Food Nation Outcomes. However, it is important to note that many functions will relate to more than one Outcome. The language used to set out the specified functions will likely be different in the final legal document.

List of specified functions

Below you will see a list of functions falling within a specified description and specified functions within existing legislation.

Outcome 1: Everyone in Scotland eats well with reliable access to safe, nutritious, affordable, sustainable, and age and culturally appropriate food.

Function falling within a specified description:

- The provision of food in schools; health and social care service; prisons; and other public settings including: consideration of food-related procurement; and minimising and disposal of food waste
- The provision of financial; mental health; and community support to reduce food insecurity and socio-economic inequalities in relation to food
- Issuing guidance on appropriate nutrition across all age groups
- Issuing guidance on infant formula and follow-on formula

- The provision of guidance or support related to acute food shortages or civil contingency emergencies / risks that affect food supply
- The provision of food education through the Curriculum for Excellence and food-related education projects that provide information on food production; career opportunities; environmental, health, economic and international impacts of the food system; cultural value of food

Existing Functions within Legislation:

- When exercising functions under the sections [56A](#), [56C](#), [56E Education \(Scotland\) Act 1980](#)
- When exercising functions under [Food \(Scotland\) Act 2015](#)
- When exercising functions under [Schools \(Health Promotion and Nutrition\) \(Scotland\) Act 2007](#)
- When exercising functions under [section 13 Housing \(Scotland\) Act 2006](#)
- [The Food Safety Act 1990 \(Consequential Modifications\) \(Scotland\) Order 1990](#)

Outcome 2: Scotland's food system is sustainable and contributes to a flourishing natural environment. It supports our net zero ambitions, and plays an important role in maintaining and improving animal welfare and in restoring and regenerating biodiversity.

Functions falling within a specified description:

- The issuing of guidance, strategies and plans related to catching, harvesting, processing, waste, and distribution of seafood
- The consideration of impacts and opportunities related to the Agricultural Reform Programme and the provision of financial support
- The consideration of animal welfare standards in food production, transport of live animals, and slaughter
- The consideration of the environmental impact (including mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change and the halting and reversing of biodiversity loss) associated with food production including the catching, rearing, growing, and harvesting of food stuffs
- The consideration of the environmental impact (including mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change and the halting and reversing of biodiversity loss) of processing and distribution of food stuffs
- The consideration of the environmental impact (including mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change and the halting and reversing of biodiversity loss) in the management of food waste
- The consideration of impacts and opportunities regarding land use and management associated with food production
- The provision of educational materials and advice in relation to a sustainable food system for food producers, processors, and consumers
- The collection of agri-food supply chain data and agricultural activity data, and consideration of this data as a means by which progress in achieving Good Food Nation outcomes may be assessed
- The regulation of organic standards regarding production of food stuffs

Existing Functions within Legislation:

- When exercising functions under [section 45C Environmental Protection Act 1990](#)
- When exercising functions under [section 8, 14, 15, 17 Agriculture \(Retained EU Law and Data\) \(Scotland\) Act 2020](#)
- When exercising functions under [section 44 Land Reform \(Scotland\) Act 2016](#)

- When exercising functions under [section 13 UK Withdrawal from the European Union \(Continuity\) \(Scotland\) Act 2021](#)
- When exercising functions under section [23](#), [28](#), [29](#) of [Schedule 1](#) of the [Environmental Assessment \(Scotland\) Act 2005](#)
- When exercising functions under [Animal Health and Welfare \(Scotland\) Act 2006](#)
- When exercising functions under [Procurement Reform \(Scotland\) Act 2014](#)
- When exercising functions under [section 2 Nature Conservation \(Scotland\) Act 2004](#)
- When exercising functions under section [17](#), [24](#) [Climate Change \(Emissions Reduction Targets\) \(Scotland\) Act 2019](#)
- When exercising functions under [section 54 Aquaculture and Fisheries \(Scotland\) Act 2013](#)
- When exercising functions under [section 56E Education \(Scotland\) Act 1980](#)
- When exercising functions under [section 19C Crofters \(Scotland\) Act 1993](#)

Outcome 3: Scotland's food system encourages a physically and mentally healthy population, leading to a reduction in diet-related conditions

Functions falling within a specified description:

- The duty of Scottish Ministers to protect public health regarding diet-related conditions
- The issuing of guidance, strategies, and plans related to diet and health
- The impact of planning decisions on the availability and type of food outlets
- The consideration of the impact of food promotions on public health
- The scope for food-related issues to affect outcomes in relation to mental health and wellbeing

Existing Functions within Legislation

- When exercising functions under [Food \(Scotland\) Act 2015](#)
- When exercising functions under [Schools \(Health Promotion and Nutrition\) \(Scotland\) Act 2007](#)
- When exercising functions under [Procurement Reform \(Scotland\) Act 2014](#)

Outcome 4: Our food and drink sector is prosperous, diverse, innovative, and vital to national and local economic and social wellbeing. It is key to making Scotland food secure and food resilient, and creates and sustains jobs and businesses underpinned by fair work standards.

Functions falling within a specified description:

- The impact of planning decisions on the availability of land with high food-growing potential (e.g. high quality agricultural land), and the location of food processing facilities
- The implementation of fair working standards in the provision of food in schools, hospitals, prisons, care homes, and other public settings
- The issuing of guidance to the food-related business sector
- The provision of financial and non-financial support to the food-related business sector
- The provision of guidance and support related to innovation in the food-related business sector

Existing Functions within Legislation:

- When exercising functions under [section 137 of the Community Empowerment \(Scotland\) Act 2015](#)
- When exercising functions under section [53](#), [53A](#) and [56A Education \(Scotland\) Act 1980](#)
- When exercising functions under [section 29 Local Government in Scotland Act 2003](#)

Outcome 5: Scotland has a thriving food culture with a population who are interested in and educated about good food.

Functions falling within a specified description:

- The provision of guidance to local authorities on food-growing strategies in relation to allotments; community land ownership; disposal of waste; and handling of excess produce e.g. from allotments
- The provision of food education
- The provision of skills development and training resources for food producers, and others who work in the food and drink sector
- The appointment and remit of the National Chef
- The promotion of food and drink in relation to tourism

Outcome 6: Scotland has a global reputation for high-quality food that we want to continue to grow. Decisions we make in Scotland contribute positively to local and global food systems transformation. We share and learn from best practice internationally.

Functions falling within a specified description:

- The consideration of food-related issues when developing and conducting trade policy
- The promotion of fair-trade certified food
- Delivery of international visits to food-related trade fairs

Question 19

Please let us know if we have missed any function falling within a specified description or relevant specified functions in the list.

Question 20

Why do you think this specified function/function falling within a specified description should be added?

Respondent Information Form

Please Note this form **must** be completed and returned with your response.

To find out how we handle your personal data, please see our privacy policy:

<https://www.gov.scot/privacy/>

Are you responding as an individual or an organisation?

- Individual
 Organisation

Full name or organisation's name

Phone number

Address

Postcode

Email Address

The Scottish Government would like your permission to publish your consultation response. Please indicate your publishing preference:

- Publish response with name
 Publish response only (without name)
 Do not publish response

Information for organisations:

The option 'Publish response only (without name)' is available for individual respondents only. If this option is selected, the organisation name will still be published.

If you choose the option 'Do not publish response', your organisation name may still be listed as having responded to the consultation in, for example, the analysis report.

We will share your response internally with other Scottish Government policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for Scottish Government to contact you again in relation to this consultation exercise?

- Yes
 No



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