

The First National Good Food Nation Plan

December 2025

**Laid before the Scottish Parliament by the Scottish Ministers under section 1
(1) (b) of the Good Food Nation (Scotland) Act 2022.**

December 2025

SG/2025/295

Contents

Foreword by the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands	1
The Legislative Basis of The National Good Food Nation Plan	3
Part One – What Will a Good Food Nation Look Like?	4
Context: the current state of the Scottish food system	4
Life in a Good Food Nation – The Vision	6
Good Food Nation Outcomes	11
Part Two – A Practical Approach to Implementation	18
The importance of effective working mechanisms	18
The Good Food Nation Process	25
Part Three – Measuring Progress - Targets and Indicators	28
Part Four – Food-Related Policies	45
People and Communities	46
Providers and Places	55
Farmers, Food Producers and Processors	60
Strategic and Overarching Policies	67
Conclusion	70
Annex A	71
Legislative Requirements	71
Annex B	77
Glossary	77
Annex C	79
List of Targets and Commitments	79
Annex D	80
Public Procurement Legislation, Policy Guidance and Support for Scottish Public Sector Bodies	80
Annex E	81
Public Sector Procurement Guidance and Resources for Business	81

Foreword by the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands



Simply put, food sustains us. It clearly provides us with the energy and nutrients that we need to live, but it also nurtures us emotionally. It is at the centre of our social relationships as we sit down to a meal with family and friends. Producing food is at the heart of our coastal and rural communities, providing jobs, community and a way of life. Our fantastic food industry provides employment from the local farmers' market to the export of Scotland's finest produce across the globe. Food enables a healthy population to enjoy life to its fullest. Our establishment of the Good Food Nation body of work recognises this.

In fact, food is so central to everything that we do that it can be taken for granted, and the supply chain that produces it sometimes overlooked. What we must do is provide it with the stewardship and care that it needs and deserves. Our food system faces challenges that we must tackle head on, and opportunities that Scotland is so well placed to take advantage of given our wonderful natural larder.

In recent times we have seen a great deal of evidence of how fragile yet vital our food supply chain truly is. Global disruption caused by conflict, political upheaval due to Brexit, and a pandemic have emphasised the importance of the essential workers who power our food chain. The twin threats of climate change and biodiversity loss can only be met if all parts of the food supply chain work together.

Alongside this the health of the people of Scotland depends on improving our relationship with food. A key goal of our Good Food Nation is to encourage the creation of food environments that enable more people to eat healthy and nutritious foods, to improve health outcomes for the population of Scotland. We also need to recognise that food insecurity remains a key challenge for many individuals and families across Scotland; ensuring that all can have dignified access to food is part of our long term vision for a Good Food Nation.

Our solutions to these challenges need to recognise how interconnected and interdependent the food system is. Every meal we eat is the result of the actions and decisions taken by countless individuals in farming, fishing, processing, transportation, retail, disposal, local and national government and other areas. Changes made in one part of the system have far-reaching effects elsewhere. That is why I, and my colleagues in the Scottish Government, are committed to working ever more closely in a cross-cutting way on all aspects of our work that relate to food.

This first Good Food Nation Plan represents how the Scottish Government intends to work collectively to meet our Good Food Nation ambitions. In our Good Food Nation, the people of Scotland can access and enjoy food that keeps them happy and

healthy. Our food industry continues to thrive and grow. The environment is protected, biodiversity loss reversed, and our net zero ambitions achieved. A Good Food Nation enables flourishing rural and coastal communities.

Of course, the changes that we need to make to address those challenges and to take advantage of our incredible food producing capabilities will not happen overnight. Our approach to the Good Food Nation Plan recognises this. Here in this Plan we have brought together all of the work that the Scottish Government intends to carry out in the coming years and set our ambitions for the future. Future iterations of the Plan will build on this foundation. In my time as Cabinet Secretary in the Scottish Government responsible for food, I have been struck by the passion, inventiveness, and determination of those that work across our food system. From farm to fishing boat; abattoir to factory; cooperative to board room; large business to charity; I have seen first-hand the incredible capability, skill, and potential that makes the Scottish food system something very special. It is by working together in delivering this Plan that we will take this next step on our Good Food Nation journey.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mairi Gougeon', written in a cursive style.

Mairi Gougeon MSP

Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands

The Legislative Basis of The National Good Food Nation Plan

The Scottish Government published a new food and drink policy in 2014 - [Becoming a Good Food Nation](#). This set out a vision for Scotland to be “a *Good Food Nation, where people from every walk of life take pride and pleasure in, and benefit from, the food they produce, buy, cook, serve, and eat each day*”.

To realise this ambition, the Scottish Ministers introduced framework legislation in the form of the Good Food Nation (Scotland) Act 2022 (“the Act”). This legislation brings together the great variety of food-related work across government under a single umbrella.

Under the Act, the Scottish Ministers are required to produce a national Good Food Nation Plan (“the Plan”) which sets out the Government’s goals for food policy and how it intends to achieve them. The Act sets out a number of requirements regarding the Plan and the content it must include. These are outlined fully in Annex A, but briefly:

- The Plan must include the main Outcomes in relation to food-related issues which the Scottish Ministers want to achieve.
- The Plan must include indicators or other measures by which progress towards achieving the Outcomes can be assessed.
- The Plan must include the policies the Scottish Ministers intend to pursue in order to achieve the Outcomes. It must also set out the Scottish Ministers’ plans for ensuring the implementation of these policies is informed by the views of the food business sector.
- When determining the content of the Plan, the Scottish Ministers must have regard to the scope for food-related issues to affect outcomes in relation to a list of specified subject areas (although other areas may also be considered).
- When preparing the Plan, the Scottish Ministers must have regard to a set of five specific principles and a list of international instruments that are set out in the Act.

Part One – What Will a Good Food Nation Look Like?

Context: the current state of the Scottish food system

Scotland's food system^{1 2} is a source of incredible success and offers much to celebrate.

We are fortunate to enjoy wonderful natural assets: Scotland's forests, fields, lochs, rivers, and seas produce an abundance of food. Farmers, crofters and fishers use their generational knowledge and husbandry skills to produce food and drink of global renown.

As well as a diverse natural larder we boast a varied business base: the Scottish food and drink industry makes a significant contribution to our economy, with the turnover value of Scotland's 17,000 food and drink business reaching £19 billion and generating £7.5 billion in terms of exported product. The sector employs 123,000 people across fishing, farming, aquaculture and manufacturing – providing high-value employment in rural areas.

Scotland's food and drink has an established reputation, domestically and globally, with a recognised brand focused on quality and provenance. We have access to a world-class research base driving innovation and supporting the sector to be more resource-efficient, profitable and sustainable.

We also benefit from the activity of a wide range of community food groups. Their invaluable support comes in many forms, from facilitating food-growing projects that support environmental action and food security to organising communal meals that address social isolation and health inequalities. Sharing food is an act of care that brings our communities together.

These are some of the great strengths in Scotland's food system. However, we must recognise that there are also still some deeply rooted flaws in that system.

For example, there has been little progress towards meeting our Scottish Dietary Goals for the last 20 years and diets remain too high in calories, fats, free sugars and salt, and too low in fruit, vegetables, fibre and oily fish. A key aim of our work to be a Good Food Nation is to shift the dial, and create a food system that enables and promotes a healthy population.

¹ We define food system in line with the UN definition as: "all the elements (environment, people, inputs, processes, infrastructures, institutions, etc.) and activities that relate to the production, processing, distribution, preparation and consumption of food, and the outputs of these activities, including socio-economic and environmental outcomes" ([UNEP \(2016\) Food Systems and Natural Resources. A Report of the Working Group on Food Systems of the International Resource Panel](#)).

² Note that "food system" is distinct from the "food environment". [The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations](#) states that: "Food environments comprise the foods available to people in their surroundings as they go about their everyday lives and the nutritional quality, safety, price, convenience, labelling and promotion of these foods. Food environments play an important role in shaping diets because they provide the choices people have when they make decisions about what to eat. A healthy food environment is one that creates the conditions that enable and encourage people to access and choose healthy diets."

There are significant inequalities in our food system that must be addressed. Many households in Scotland experience food insecurity on a regular basis or are intermittently worried about being able to access food. Diet-related conditions³ are also more pervasive in communities experiencing deprivation. In pursuing our goal to achieve Good Food Nation ambitions it is essential that we do not do so at the expense of any community. When creating future food policy that aligns with the overarching Outcomes consideration of such inequalities needs to be at the forefront to avoid unintended consequences. Some of the actions we have taken in recent years are already moving us in the right direction, such as the roll out of free school meals to all pupils in primary 1 to primary 5.

It is important to acknowledge that making important and necessary long-term systemic changes to our food system and achieving ambitious food-related goals will take time. We cannot ignore the fact that, as things stand, the Scottish Government does not have full control of all of the levers that can be used to influence the direction of the food system. For example, employment law remains a reserved area, which limits the actions that we can take in Scotland to improve fair work standards in the food and drink industry. The importance of making these changes to the food system is reflected in the fact that both devolved and national governments in the UK are setting out how they intend to tackle this^{4 5 6}.

Scotland is part of a global food system. The food we consume in Scotland is not limited to that produced in Scotland, or even within the UK. Domestic food production relies on the import of inputs from abroad such as fertilisers and seeds. We also export some of our food. Policymakers must consider food policy in a global context and seek to engage positively with international best practice.

An independent Scotland would have full control over all the levers in food policy, which would have a material effect on what we can achieve and how quickly. Future iterations of the national Good Food Nation Plan will of course be influenced by the constitutional situation at the time they are compiled.

Scotland's food system faces many challenges. However, it also has enormous potential to offer the solutions. Although we have begun to realise this, there is much more that can be harnessed: to advance prosperity; to provide secure livelihoods; to support healthier diets; to strengthen our communities; and to protect our natural environment and animal welfare standards.

³ "Diet-related conditions", also known as non-communicable diseases, refers to illnesses that result from diets that have an imbalance of particular nutrients or food groups. Common diet-related conditions include: obesity, type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, hypertension, certain types of cancer and nutrient deficiencies.

⁴ [Food Matters: Wales](#)

⁵ [Northern Ireland Food Strategy](#)

⁶ [UK Government Food Strategy](#)

Life in a Good Food Nation – The Vision

The preceding section outlines the current state of Scotland’s food system, and offers an honest appraisal of the weaknesses in that system. However, we must not lose sight of what we are aiming to achieve with our original vision for Scotland to be *“a Good Food Nation, where people from every walk of life take pride and pleasure in, and benefit from, the food they produce, buy, cook, serve, and eat each day”*.

The series of short narratives that follow describe in greater depth how the Good Food Nation vision might look in practice for different groups of society. Whilst the scenarios described might appear far removed from the current state of Scotland’s food system, they can help all of us to envision a better future. They can also help to generate discussion among policymakers. These narratives were created using feedback we received during the consultation on the draft of this Plan, and should be considered as a companion piece to the Good Food Nation Outcomes and the original Good Food Nation Vision. A visual representation to highlight some of the many actors involved in the food system is provided in Figure 1.

Childhood in a Good Food Nation – The Vision

Children in a Good Food Nation grow up with access to healthy, safe, and nutritious foods that are appropriate to their age, developmental stage, and cultural background. Parents and carers are easily able to access advice and support about feeding infants and young children. The food environment in Scotland supports parents and carers to provide children with a healthy diet, essential to support growth and development.

Women are supported with their diet, nutrition and weight before, during, after and between pregnancies to nurture their own health and the health and development of their children from conception.

Children do not experience persistent hunger as everyone has sufficient money to access the food they need with dignity and choice.

Enjoyment of food is key: it is normal for children to experience and take pleasure in eating a diverse and healthy variety of foods. Schools, early learning and childcare settings foster this enjoyment by providing meals that children and young people are excited to share. Eating together in these settings is normal practice, helping to set positive habits and offering learning opportunities. Education about food, from the basics of cooking to the complex nature of the food system, is embedded in the education sector. Children have frequent opportunities to participate in a variety of food-related educational experiences and activities. They are learning the skills and knowledge required to understand and operate within our food system.

Adult life in a Good Food Nation – The Vision

Positive early experiences with food mean that people in Scotland are able to maintain a healthy relationship with food throughout their lives, enjoying a variety of foods appropriate to their tastes and cultural backgrounds.

Inequalities that prevent people from accessing healthy and nutritious food have decreased, with financial support easily available to those that need it. Rates of experienced food insecurity are at an all-time low, with advice and support readily available to ensure that everyone is able to access food in a dignified manner.

Diet-related health outcomes have improved. As a result of better diets, Scotland is experiencing a decline in the rates of obesity and associated conditions. Most adults are able to maintain a healthy weight.

The food environment in Scotland supports healthy and sustainable food choices. Information about the environmental, social and nutritional impacts of food and its provenance are widely understood and easily available. Equality of access to healthy and sustainable food options is maintained across all areas of Scotland, including rural areas and islands.

Out of Home in a Good Food Nation – The Vision

Food retailers and restaurant owners in Scotland are excellent employers who meet Fair Work First criteria and, where applicable, enter fair and equitable procurement contracts. They play an important and active role in supporting a strong local food economy. Careers in the hospitality and retail sector are seen as attractive options.

Retail store environments promote safe, healthy and nutritious options, making them affordable and appealing. Information to help consumers understand the nutritional quality and provenance of the food on sale is easily available.

The food available in public catering settings such as schools, hospitals, prisons and canteens is safe, healthy, fresh, in-season, makes the most of our excellent Scottish produce and is appealing to the varied population of Scotland. Menus promote healthy, sustainable and enjoyable options. Caterers make procurement choices that support a variety of producers, and smaller producers are able to participate in public contracts.

Restaurants and cafes are inspired to celebrate fresh, seasonal produce on their menus and create meals that customers enjoy. The range of public and private options available to choose from create a thriving and exciting food environment, where people are enabled to choose from a wide range of healthy and delicious foods when eating outside of the home.

Retailers, restaurant owners and public caterers all work to minimise food waste wherever possible, for example through creative menu design. Food packaging is designed to reduce waste.

Food Production and Processing in a Good Food Nation – The Vision

The food and drink sector continues to have an important role in Scotland's economy. Scottish products are widely enjoyed at home and abroad, and are a source of pride for the people of Scotland.

Farmers, crofters and fishers in Scotland help to build resilient supply chains and contribute towards our food security. They feel that their work is respected, and that they both benefit from and create a safe and fair working environment. They are able to obtain a fair price for their produce/catch, and to sell it locally where they wish to do so.

Careers in the food production sectors, whether they be in farming, fishing, processing or manufacturing, are seen as viable and desirable options.

Apprenticeships and other educational and training programmes to prepare people for careers throughout the food sector are widely available.

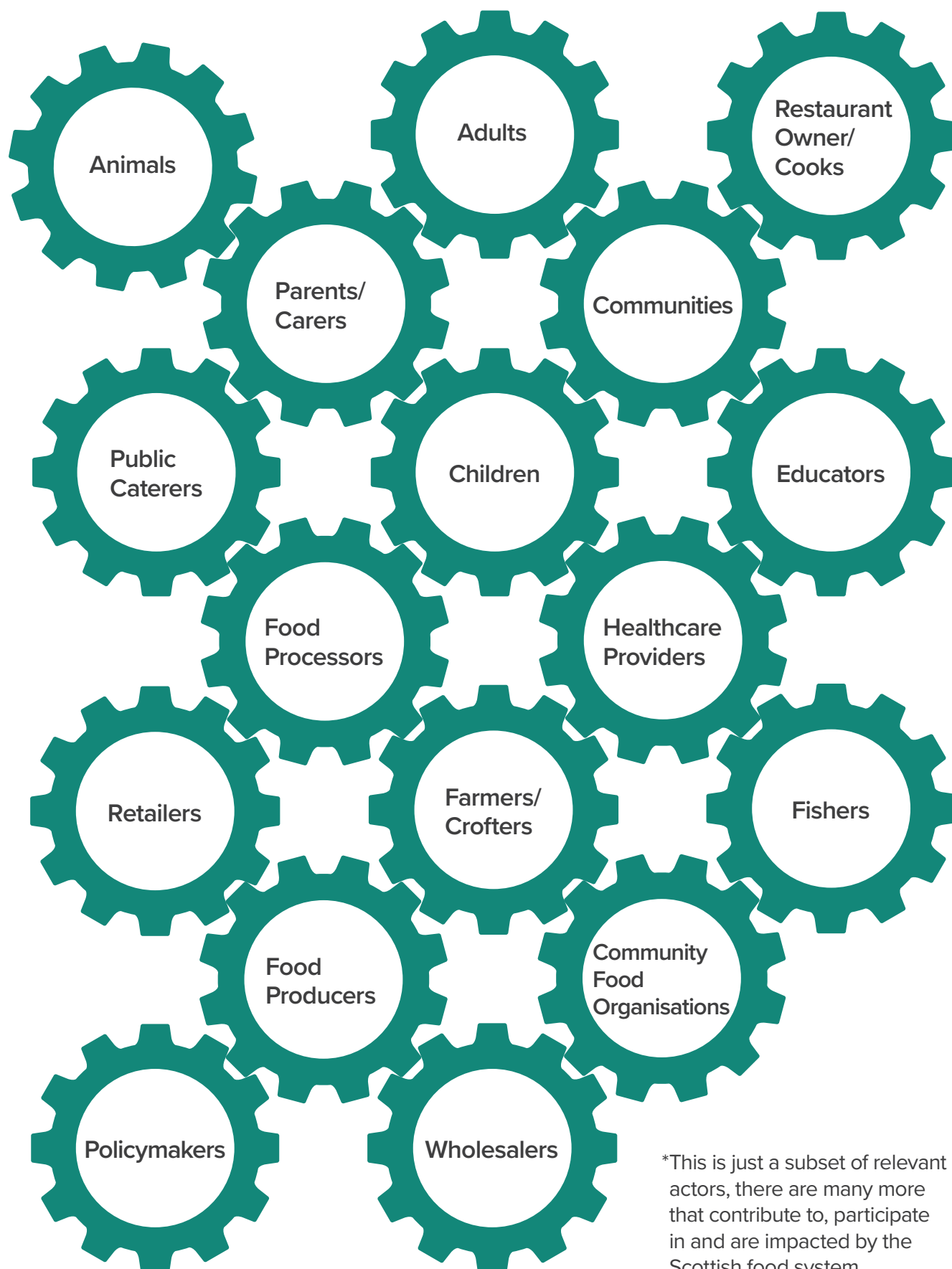
Farming and land management practices are designed to reduce environmental impact, increase biodiversity, and ensure high standards of animal welfare. Sustainable fishing practices support the marine environment and ecosystem.

Farmers, crofters and fishers are able to benefit from a variety of support, training and advice to aid them in running successful and sustainable businesses.

Food manufacturers and processors in Scotland also work to ensure resilience along the whole supply chain, whilst minimising waste and environmental impact. Food manufacturers are empowered to reformulate their products to improve the nutritional content whilst maintaining a diverse portfolio of options. They use fresh and seasonal ingredients wherever possible to make healthy and sustainable products. The workforce is supported to develop and enhance its skills in a safe and fair working environment.

The importance of an excellent food safety system in Scotland is critical in keeping the Scottish population safe when eating out or buying pre-packaged foods, and good hygiene practices help to reduce demand on critical services within other health and social care settings. Food Safety Officers and Environmental Health Officer roles within local authorities are vital in the inspection and enforcement of food hygiene standards across food production premises and play a key role in preventing bad practice and ensuring compliance.

Actors in the Food System*



*This is just a subset of relevant actors, there are many more that contribute to, participate in and are impacted by the Scottish food system.

Figure 1 Actors in the Food System

Inequalities in the food system

The national Good Food Nation Plan aims to drive accountability in tackling food-related issues and inequalities. To achieve our Good Food Nation ambitions, we must look across the food system and consider inequalities through a broad lens. The food system in Scotland is complex and so are the inequalities within it.

In order to achieve the Outcomes set out in the Good Food Nation Plan they must be considered as a whole. This will mean taking a joined-up approach to developing food policy and working across a range of policy areas to ensure as wide an input as possible is given to the consideration of inequalities.

The impact assessments for the national Good Food Nation Plan identified a number of key themes, the detail of which is provided in the assessments themselves. It is not possible to include every aspect here, but the aim is to provide a high-level overview and to act as a prompt for the kinds of inequalities policymakers will need to think about when developing new food related policy.

An important consideration when dealing with inequalities in relation to food is the intersectional nature of inequalities. Multiple kinds of inequality can overlap to create unique, compounded experiences for individuals. This should be taken into consideration when undertaking engagement with people with lived experience, collating evidence to inform the impact assessments and when involving relevant groups in the policymaking process.

The national Good Food Nation Plan makes clear that it is the food environment that impacts people's ability to access good food, rather than it being solely individual choice. Socio-economic inequalities can mean that people from lower socio-economic backgrounds or living in areas of high deprivation experience inequalities across many aspects of the food system, from access to consistent and sufficient food provision, to being able to follow a healthy diet. Diet-related conditions⁷ are also more pervasive in communities experiencing deprivation.

Certain groups are at higher risk of experiencing poverty, including families with three or more children, families with children aged under one, lone parent families, families with mothers aged under 25, minority ethnic families and families with a disabled person.⁸

There are several age-related inequalities to consider. Children and young people living in deprived areas or experiencing high levels of household food insecurity face inequalities in access to good food and healthy diets, which can lead to further inequalities as they grow up. Older adults are a group that experience particular challenges in the food system that are often overlooked, some of these relate to their socio-economic status, while others relate to their particular needs as an age group. For example, older adults are at higher risk of malnutrition, and while poverty is a significant cause, the factors contributing to this go beyond poverty.

⁷ "Diet-related conditions", also known as non-communicable diseases, refers to illnesses that result from diets that have an imbalance of particular nutrients or food groups. Common diet-related conditions include: obesity, type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, hypertension, certain types of cancer and nutrient deficiencies.

⁸ [Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan](#) (2018) - the six priority family types identified as being most at risk of poverty.

Rural-based industries are vital to our food system and so addressing the issues facing those industries is essential to achieving a Good Food Nation. These issues range from childcare challenges, to the limited availability of land and housing for those working, or wishing to work, in rural food-based industries.

Communities across Scotland face a diverse range of barriers to accessing good food, with smaller, rural or island communities facing particularly unique challenges. Policy initiatives to improve diets and encourage healthy eating may not always be accessible for these communities if barriers are preventing them from accessing the food they would like or need.

There are also impacts to consider in relation to gender. For example, the health of mothers can impact significantly on their babies. In agricultural industries, women are often underrepresented – barriers such as access to childcare can prevent women getting into rural-based work. Pay is also an area where inequalities still exist – for example, the gender pay gap in 2025 for the manufacture of food products was 13.3%, which was higher in comparison to other industries and services.⁹

Disability can affect how people in Scotland access and interact with the food system and it is important to consider wider groups, such those with addictions or mental health issues, who may require additional support to access new policy initiatives.

Asylum seekers and those with no recourse to public funds are more at risk of experiencing food insecurity and can face barriers in accessing support.¹⁰ There is an evidence gap on the intersection of ethnicity and diet, which could be further explored when developing relevant new policy.

These are some examples of where the inequalities lie in the food system, but there is much more to consider and explore that is not possible to set out in this national Plan. This is why we are developing a range of tools for policymakers to use when they are having regard to the national Good Food Nation Plan, such as building up an evidence bank which can be drawn on when considering inequalities in the context of the food system. Providing these resources will help inform consideration of inequalities and increase the likelihood of positive impacts on diverse communities across Scotland through the implementation of the national Good Food Nation Plan.

You can find more information on how we have considered inequalities and human rights in our impact assessments.

Good Food Nation Outcomes

At the heart of the national Good Food Nation Plan are the six overarching Good Food Nation Outcomes. These Outcomes reflect the subject areas and principles that are set out in the Act; a table illustrating how this has been done can be found in Annex A. These ambitious Outcomes are of long-term strategic importance to Scotland; as food policy continues to develop domestically and globally, we will continue to evaluate and revise the Outcomes to ensure that they remain relevant and sufficiently stretching. The Outcomes should be considered as a coherent set, with no Outcome being considered more, or less, important than the others.

⁹ [Office for National Statistics, Earnings and hours worked, by industry and occupation: ASHE](#) (2024)

¹⁰ [Supporting documents - Ending the need for food banks - draft plan: consultation analysis - gov.scot](#) (2022)

The Outcomes do not describe the current situation in Scotland; instead they are a description of the Good Food Nation we are aiming to build. They are not merely a set of instructions for the Scottish Ministers, but are intended to guide aspirations for everyone in Scotland. As a result, they do not focus on actions for the Scottish Ministers but instead aim to paint a more general picture of a Good Food Nation. They are necessarily broad in nature: details of the policies and approaches that will be used to achieve them sit elsewhere in the Plan and not within the Outcomes themselves.

- **Outcome 1:** The food environment in Scotland enables people to eat well. Everyone benefits from reliable and dignified access to safe, nutritious, affordable, enjoyable, sustainable and age-appropriate food.
- **Outcome 2:** Scotland's food system is sustainable and contributes to a flourishing natural environment on our land and in our waters. It supports our net zero and climate adaptation ambitions and plays an important role in protecting and improving animal health and welfare and in restoring and regenerating biodiversity.
- **Outcome 3:** Scotland's food environment and wider food system enables and promotes a physically and mentally healthy population. This leads to the prevention of, and a reduction in, diet-related conditions.
- **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 throughout food supply chains.
- **Outcome 5:** People and communities are empowered to participate in, and shape, their food system. Scotland has a thriving food culture with a population who are educated about good and sustainable food.
- **Outcome 6:** Decisions we make in Scotland contribute positively to local and global food systems transformation. Scotland actively engages in learning and exchanging knowledge and best practice internationally.

Developing the Good Food Nation Outcomes

The Outcomes 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. The 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.

In an effort to ensure connections between policy areas can be made easily, when defining these Outcomes we have considered the food system as a whole. The Outcomes have been drafted with regard to the matters, principles and international

instruments listed in sections 1(6), 2 and 5 of the Act¹¹ but they are also a reflection of the key challenges and opportunities that exist within the Scottish food system.

The Act recognises the importance of human rights. Section 5 stipulates that in preparing this national Plan, the Scottish Ministers must have regard to the following international human rights instruments:

- Article 11 (so far as it concerns adequate food) of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (“ICESCR”) ¹²
- Article 24(2)(c) (so far as it concerns the provision of adequate nutritious foods) of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (“UNCRC”) ¹³
- Articles 27(1) and (3) (so far as they concern nutrition) of the UNCRC
- Article 12(2) (so far as it concerns adequate nutrition during pregnancy and lactation) of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (“CEDAW”) ¹⁴

These human rights instruments are woven into the Outcomes. The Scottish Government is committed to respecting, protecting and fulfilling internationally recognised human rights. The right to adequate food is a human right, as part of the right to an adequate standard of living under article 11 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and essential to the realisation of other human rights.

The right to adequate food can only be fully guaranteed by addressing the accessibility, availability, acceptability, and quality of food in an integrated and systemic manner, and by recognising the indivisible, interdependent and interrelated nature of all human rights which are underpinned by dignity.

The United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights considers the key components of the right to adequate food include¹⁵:

- Availability:
 - Food should be culturally acceptable
 - Food must satisfy dietary needs, taking into account the individual’s age, living conditions, health, occupation, etc.
 - Food should be safe for human consumption

¹¹ Please refer to Annex A for full detail of the legislative requirements applying to this document.

¹² The Scottish Government has committed to bringing forward legislation in Session 7 (2026-31) of the Scottish Parliament – subject to the outcome of the 2026 Scottish Parliament election – to incorporate the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights into Scots law, within the limits of devolved competence.

¹³ The UNCRC (Incorporation) (Scotland) Act 2024 fully commenced in July 2024, which means that the UNCRC has been directly incorporated into Scots law, within the limits of devolved competence.

¹⁴ The Scottish Government has committed to bringing forward legislation in Session 7 (2026-31) of the Scottish Parliament – subject to the outcome of the 2026 Scottish Parliament election – to incorporate the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women into Scots law, within the limits of devolved competence.

¹⁵ Based on [UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights General Comment 12 on the right to adequate food](#) - to note that General Comments are intended to provide further guidance on how the treaties are to be interpreted and provide assistance to States parties to the Conventions in fulfilling their reporting obligations. They are not legally binding and provide guidance on how the articles of the treaties should be implemented.

- Food should be available from natural resources, either through the production of food by cultivating land or animal husbandry, or through other ways of obtaining food (such as fishing, hunting, or gathering)
 - Food should be available for sale in markets and shops
 - Food should be available for future generations through sustainable production, considering factors such as the impact of possible climate change
- **Accessibility:**
 - Food should be physically accessible for all, including individuals who live in very rural areas; and individuals who are physically vulnerable (such as children, people with ill health, disabled people, or older people)
 - Food should be economically accessible for all. Everyone should be able to afford food for an adequate diet without compromising on any other basic needs such as heating or housing
 - The accessibility of food should be sustainable for present and future generations















The Outcomes were also developed within the context of the [National Performance Framework](#) (NPF)¹⁶ and the [United Nations Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs).¹⁷ The National Performance Framework and the Sustainable Development Goals share the same aims. The National Performance Framework is Scotland’s way to localise the Sustainable Development Goals and apply them in a way that is most relevant to Scotland.

Table 1 below illustrates how the six overarching Outcomes are linked to human rights instruments; the National Performance Framework; and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.










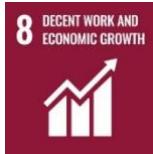



¹⁶ The NPF sets out 11 National Outcomes for Scotland: these Outcomes describe the kind of Scotland the framework aims to create.













¹⁷ The SDGs are a set of “global goals” and targets that are part of an internationally agreed call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030.

Table 1: How the Good Food Nation Outcomes link to the National Performance Framework, the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the Right to Food

Good Food Nation Outcome	National Performance Framework Outcome	UN Sustainable Development Goals	International Instruments ¹⁸
<p>Outcome 1</p> <p>The food environment in Scotland enables people to eat well. Everyone benefits from reliable and dignified access to safe, nutritious, affordable, enjoyable, sustainable and age-appropriate food.</p>	<p> We respect, protect and fulfil human rights and live free from discrimination</p> <p> We tackle poverty by sharing opportunities, wealth and power more equally</p> <p> We grow up loved, safe and respected so that we realise our full potential</p>	<p> 1 NO POVERTY</p> <p> 2 ZERO HUNGER</p> <p> 3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING</p> <p> 5 GENDER EQUALITY</p> <p> 10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES</p>	<p>Article 11 of ICESCR</p> <p>Article 24(2)(c) of the UNCRC</p> <p>Articles 27(1) and (3) of the UNCRC</p> <p>Article 12(2) of CEDAW</p>
<p>Outcome 2</p> <p>Scotland's food system is sustainable and contributes to a flourishing natural environment on our land and in our waters. It supports our net zero and climate adaptation ambitions and plays an important role in protecting and improving animal health and welfare and in restoring and regenerating biodiversity.</p>	<p> We value, enjoy, protect and enhance our environment</p> <p> We have a globally competitive, entrepreneurial, inclusive and sustainable economy</p>	<p> 6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION</p> <p> 12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION</p> <p> 13 CLIMATE ACTION</p> <p> 14 LIFE BELOW WATER</p>	<p>Article 11 of ICESCR</p> <p>Article 24(2)(c) of the UNCRC</p>

¹⁸ Only the international instruments listed at Section 5(2) of the Good Food Nation (Scotland) Act 2022 are included in this table.

			
<p>Outcome 3</p> <p>Scotland's food environment and wider food system enables and promotes a physically and mentally healthy population. This leads to the prevention of, and a reduction in, diet-related conditions.</p>	<p> We are healthy and active</p> <p> We grow up loved, safe and respected so that we realise our full potential</p>	<p></p> <p></p>	<p>Article 11 of ICESCR</p> <p>Article 24(2)(c) of the UNCRC</p> <p>Articles 27(1) and (3) of the UNCRC</p> <p>Article 12(2) of CEDAW</p>
<p>Outcome 4</p> <p>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 throughout food supply chains.</p>	<p> We have thriving and innovative businesses, with quality jobs and fair work for everyone</p> <p> We have a globally competitive, entrepreneurial, inclusive and sustainable economy</p> <p> We live in communities that are inclusive, empowered, resilient and safe</p> <p> We are well educated, skilled and able to contribute to society</p>	<p></p> <p></p> <p></p> <p></p>	<p>Article 11 of ICESCR</p>

<p>Outcome 5</p> <p>People and communities are empowered to participate in, and shape, their food system. Scotland has a thriving food culture with a population who are educated about good and sustainable food.</p>	<p> We are well educated, skilled and able to contribute to society</p> <p> We live in communities that are inclusive, empowered, resilient and safe</p> <p> We are creative and our vibrant and diverse cultures are expressed and enjoyed widely</p> <p> We grow up loved, safe and respected so that we realise our full potential</p>	  	
<p>Outcome 6</p> <p>Decisions we make in Scotland contribute positively to local and global food systems transformation. Scotland actively engages in learning and exchanging knowledge and best practice internationally.</p>	<p> We are open, connected and make a positive contribution internationally</p> <p> We have a globally competitive, entrepreneurial, inclusive and sustainable economy</p>	  	<p>Article 11 of ICESCR</p>

Part Two – A Practical Approach to Implementation

The importance of effective working mechanisms

The national Good Food Nation Plan provides the framework and building blocks to ensure that Scottish food policy is developed in a more coherent way. Ultimately, the Plan is intended to guide the actions of the Scottish Ministers when making national food policy.

Food policy is incredibly varied and complex: the policy map at Figure 2 provides a high level illustration of how many different areas of the Scottish Government make policy that relates to food.

All of these individual policies and interventions are inputs that are required to realise the six Good Food Nation Outcomes. This point is demonstrated in Part Four of this Plan, where we explicitly link each policy area to the Outcome(s) that it contributes towards. This is to support the breaking down of “silo” working by making clear that policymakers should be considering the Outcomes as a cohesive set i.e. rather than taking a narrow focussed approach, development of food policy should take account of the wider interconnected policies across the Scottish Government.

To achieve real and lasting food systems transformation we must focus not only on ensuring that we design the right policy inputs, but also on ensuring that the machine of government runs smoothly to maximise their impact.

If each policy area makes decisions in isolation from the others, without the clear vision of a common goal, then the result can be policies that compete with rather than complement each other. No individual policy can achieve an Outcome by itself: the collective impact is strengthened when policies work together. Lack of cohesion in policymaking can reduce or narrow the effectiveness of individual policies and hinder our overall progress towards achieving and maintaining a Good Food Nation.

The Good Food Nation Plan is intended to be a new tool to tackle this issue. It encourages a broader and more strategic approach to food policy, enabling us to better understand the interconnected nature of food-related policies.

A Good Food Nation approach improves our ability to identify policies that deliver benefits across multiple areas. Conversely, it means that we are also better able to recognise policy initiatives that are not delivering across the breadth of food-related policy, and consider how to improve their effectiveness.

This is not a small task, and it cannot be accomplished quickly. However, we know it is fundamental to effecting real change so that the decisions we make, and the actions we take, move us closer to the realisation of a better food system that actively supports our wellbeing and the wellbeing of our planet.

Food Policy Areas in Scottish Government*



*This is not a full list of policy areas but rather a condensed summary.

Figure 2 Policy areas that relate to food across the Scottish Government. The Scottish Government has Directors General (DG) who manage a number of directorates.

Embedding a joined-up approach

It is essential that we work on ensuring that a joined-up approach to formulating food policy is thoroughly embedded across the Scottish Government. In this section we propose how we will continue to foster and increase collaboration across relevant portfolios.

We are at a key point in our journey to be a Good Food Nation: the Scottish Government has taken on an innovative approach to changing the way in which food policy is developed. As set out below, the Good Food Nation Act creates a statutory duty on the Scottish Ministers to have regard to the national Plan when carrying out specified functions and descriptions. Setting out these specified functions and descriptions in secondary legislation is a novel approach and reflects the ambition to do things differently in relation to food policy.

Implementing systems thinking¹⁹ in the development of food policy will not happen overnight. Food is a complex and interdependent issue, but we now have world-leading legislation to underpin our aim of becoming a Good Food Nation.

Through the work undertaken to develop this national Plan the process of changing working practices with regard to food policy has already begun. This has happened at all levels of the Scottish Government and the information below sets out the main mechanisms of how we will work in a collaborative and cross cutting way.

Partnership is key to delivering our Good Food Nation ambition, and the Good Food Nation Plans will strengthen the links between the work of the Scottish Government and the relevant authorities. This approach will bring a greater level of consistency to food policy, whilst still allowing local authorities and health boards the flexibility to respond to the unique pressures and circumstances they encounter on the ground. This coherent approach across national and local levels is fundamental to achieving our ambitions for Scotland's food systems.

Cross Portfolio working

The Ministerial Working Group on Food will continue to act as the mechanism for cross-portfolio discussions and decision-making on food related policy at the Ministerial level.

Cross Policy working

At national policy level, we have already made great progress in building on existing connections and collaborations whilst drafting this first plan. We have begun to take steps to formalise this approach by convening a working group on Good Food Nation, made up of representative policy officials from across portfolios. This official-level group has supported us to build on and refine this Plan after the public consultation.

This working group will transform into a regular policy forum to allow policy officials to discuss complex issues. Through regular meetings it will be possible to work through challenges and identify opportunities for developing new food-related policy in a coherent manner.

¹⁹ Systems thinking is a framework for seeing the interconnections in a system and a discipline for seeing and understanding the whole system; the 'structures' that underlie complex situations.

Opportunities for collaboration

The Official and Ministerial working groups will interact at appropriate points with other relevant groups within the Scottish Government, for example groups working on climate change policy.

The Good Food Nation team will play a key role in this, acting as a conduit and facilitator for policy teams to build on and enhance existing cross-policy working and facilitate an exchange of ideas across government at all levels.

The practical effect of the national Plan: the duty to have regard to the national Plan

Changes to working practices are fundamental, and lie at the heart of the Good Food Nation approach. New food policy must be created and developed with the shared Outcomes in mind if it is to be fully effective. The Act delivers a brand new mechanism to ensure this consideration is taken.

Section 6 of the Act, requires the Scottish Ministers to have regard to²⁰ the national Good Food Nation Plan when exercising certain functions specified in secondary legislation²¹. In practice, this means that the Scottish Ministers and their officials must consider how the particular function that they are exercising, such as policy development, impacts on or contributes to the achievement of the Outcomes.

This will ensure that food policy and the ambition to achieve the Outcomes in the plan will be incorporated across a wide range of policy areas, encouraging a joined up and interconnected approach.

Links to strategic overarching policies

This national Good Food Nation Plan takes into consideration the context of other cross-policy strategies, plans and programmes that are both underway and forthcoming. Many of these have interlinked and overlapping ambitions about the future of Scotland. In turn, the six Good Food Nation Outcomes will influence the direction of future work, as policymakers and the Scottish Ministers seek to ensure that food-related policy plans are developed in line with these Outcomes. The overarching policy areas that have played a part in formulating the Good Food Nation Outcomes are set out below. Links to more detailed documents relating to these areas have been provided in Part Four.

- **Human rights**

Recognition of human rights forms part of the legislation that underpins this Plan. Section 5 of the Act stipulates that in preparing this Plan, the Scottish Ministers must have regard to a number of specific international human rights instruments. Further discussion of how we have embedded human rights in this Plan can be found in Part One.

- **Child poverty**

The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 sets in statute ambitious targets to significantly reduce the proportion of children living in poverty in Scotland, and

²⁰ 'have regard' is a legal term meaning to take the relevant document into account and, if the Scottish Ministers decide to depart from it, they must have and give clear reasons for doing so.

²¹ Relevant functions and descriptions of functions will be specified in secondary legislation.

provides a robust framework to drive forward action and to report on progress at a local and national level. The Scottish Government's second Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan for the period 2022-26, Best Start, Bright Futures, sets out how the Scottish Government will work with partners across Scotland to increase household incomes, reduce the costs of living and to improve the lives and outcomes of children and families. A delivery plan for the period 2026-31 will be published by the end of March 2026.

- **Climate Change; Biodiversity; the Road to Net Zero; and a Just Transition**

It is impossible to separate any discussion of food and food systems from ongoing work to transition Scotland to net zero emissions. Closely linked to the issue of climate change is the issue of biodiversity loss: the two are of the same order of importance when it comes to environmental protection. Policymakers must consider the climate change and environmental impacts of any food-related policy development.

- **Land Reform**

Scotland's land is a precious national resource that is fundamental to our economy, our environment, our wellbeing, and our just transition to net zero. The Land Rights and Responsibilities Statement articulates our vision for the ownership, use and management of land, and is clear that all land should support sustainable economic development, protect and enhance the environment, support a just transition to net zero, help achieve social justice, and build a fairer society for the common good.

- **Vision for Agriculture**

The Vision for Agriculture outlines our aim to transform how we support farming and food production in Scotland to become a global leader in sustainable and regenerative agriculture that delivers high quality food production, climate mitigation and adaptation, and nature restoration. The Vision makes clear Scotland will have a robust and coherent framework to underpin our future agricultural support regime from 2025 onwards to support our farmers, crofters, and land managers.

- **Food Safety, Standards, and Nutrition**

Food Standards Scotland (FSS) is Scotland's public sector food body and was established in 2015. FSS acts as a trusted and authoritative source both for the public and for the Scottish Government. Food policy development must also be considered in the context of the [Scottish Dietary Goals](#). These describe, in nutritional terms, the diet that will improve and support the health of the Scottish population. Adherence to the Goals would increase the number of people who are a healthy weight and reduce the incidence of diet-related conditions²². The Goals are used for monitoring and informing policies to improve Scotland's diet.

²² "Diet-related conditions", also known as non-communicable diseases, refers to illnesses that result from diets that have an imbalance of particular nutrients or food groups. Common diet-related conditions include: obesity, type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, hypertension, certain types of cancer, and nutrient deficiencies.

- **National Planning Framework (NPF4)**
 This framework sets the spatial strategy for Scotland’s long-term development. It, along with local development plans prepared by planning authorities across Scotland, forms the development plan for a given area. Decisions on planning applications must be made in accordance with the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise.
- **National Marine Plan**
 This plan provides the guiding framework for sustainable management of marine activities and resources in Scotland’s seas. Alongside the National Marine Plan, the UK Fisheries Act 2020 provides a legal framework for delivering sustainable sea fisheries, and is supported by a range of policies and actions within both the UK Joint Fisheries Statement and the upcoming Fisheries Management Plans.
- **Wellbeing Economy**
 The Scottish Government aims to build a fair, green, and growing economy that is prosperous, resilient, and sustainable, supporting people to live happier and healthier lives with higher living standards. This transition requires long-term, system-wide change, and the involvement of all society.
- **Community Wealth Building**
 This is both a policy and practical economic development model which aims to reduce economic and wealth inequality by supporting the generation, circulation, and retention of wealth in local and regional economies and is intended to ensure that the Scottish Government achieves wellbeing economy objectives. This aims to support the retention of wealth in local communities and give people in those communities a greater stake in the economy of which they are a part. One way in which this could be done is by using anchor organisations such as health boards and local authorities who have a strong local presence in an area. By sourcing more goods and services locally, and with organisations that work ethically and sustainably, anchor institutions can have a positive impact on community wealth and wellbeing.
- **Fair Work**
 Although employment law is reserved to the UK Government, we aim to use Fair Work policy to promote fairer work practices across the labour market in Scotland.
- **Food Security**
 The Scottish Government has set up a Food Security Unit which is working to establish baseline indicators for Scotland’s food security, which can then form the basis for both strategic considerations and the management of short-term shocks.
- **Population Health Framework**
 The Population Health Framework for Scotland takes a cross-government, cross-sector approach to improving the key building blocks of health and reducing health inequalities. The Framework focuses on primary prevention activities that try to stop problems happening in the first place, ensuring that efforts to improve well-being are coordinated and comprehensive.

The central aim of the Population Health Framework is to improve Scottish life expectancy whilst reducing the life expectancy gap between the most deprived 20% of local areas and the national average. This Framework will be supported by a Diet and Healthy Weight Implementation Plan, focused in part on improving the food environment.

The national Good Food Nation Plan aligns closely with the Population Health Framework. A better food system is integral to improving population health in Scotland and reducing health inequalities. This Plan provides a cross-policy approach to ensuring the collective action required, complementing and supporting the wide range of actions under the Population Health Framework.

- **Early Child Development Transformational Change Programme**

This programme is focused on the pre-birth to three period, recognising that what children experience during their early years provides the foundations for health and life skills. This includes a focus on women who are preparing for pregnancy, who are pregnant, after pregnancy, and between pregnancies, to minimise or eliminate known risk factors which impact on the health and wellbeing of their babies at birth and into adulthood.

The Good Food Nation supports improved early child development because appropriate and sufficient food and nutrition is one of the four things babies need to support their optimal development, along with sensitive, responsive caregiving; play and stimulation; and to be kept safe from harm.

The Good Food Nation Process

Achieving a Good Food Nation is a process and not an event: the Scottish Government will update both our ambitions for the Good Food Nation and our measures for assessing progress towards them by publishing refreshed and revised versions of the national Good Food Nation Plan at regular intervals. Every two years we will publish a progress report. At least every five years we will review and, as necessary, revise the Plan. We will continue to engage with key stakeholders including the food-related business sector as part of this process. Every iteration of the Plan will be subject to both public consultation and Parliamentary scrutiny.

Relevant authorities (currently local authorities and territorial health boards) are required by the Act to produce Good Food Nation Plans of their own, and to have regard to this national Plan when doing so.²³ The same reporting and revision requirements that apply to the national Plan will also apply to relevant authority Good Food Nation Plans. Relevant authorities will be required to hold consultations on their Plans, but they are not required to lay the Plans before the Scottish Parliament.

Whilst this Plan can and must serve as a guide for relevant authorities, it is for the authorities themselves to determine the Outcomes, measures and policies that are best suited to achieving a Good Food Nation in their particular areas.

We will continue to engage and work collaboratively with relevant authorities, individually as well as through representative bodies, such as COSLA (Convention of Scottish Local Authorities) to ensure they have the information and resources they require to comply with their statutory duties. We will explore options to provide a forum for relevant authorities to exchange ideas and learn from best practice.

As we move through the cycles of revising and reviewing the forthcoming Good Food Nation Plans, there will be opportunities to share learning across Scotland, and between local and national levels. By exchanging these views, we can fill knowledge gaps, foster creative and innovative ideas, and make better decisions that help cut down on costs and improve efficiency.

Oversight and Reporting

The Act also provides for the establishment of a new public body: the Scottish Food Commission.^{24 25} This new Commission will review the progress and effectiveness of national and relevant authorities' Good Food Nation Plans. It will advise, inform, and assist the Scottish Ministers and relevant authorities with a view to promoting and supporting progress to achieve the outcomes and also improving the effectiveness of the plans in addressing food related issues. This means the national Plan and the relevant authority Plans will be independently scrutinised. This independent oversight by the Scottish Food Commission will play a pivotal role in ensuring that the Outcomes and activities set out in the Good Food Nation Plans are both ambitious and effective in promoting the positive transformation of our food system.

²³ The requirement for relevant authorities to publish good food nation plans is set out in section 10 of the Act. Relevant authorities must comply with this duty before the end of the period of 12 months beginning with the day on which section 10 comes into force. Section 10 is currently not in force.

²⁴ This new, statutory, Scottish Food Commission is not to be confused with the previous, non-statutory commission of the same name which completed its work in 2018.

²⁵ The Scottish Food Commission was formally established 30 June 2025.

Their recommendations, which will be published and available to read to the general public, will be key in the continuous improvement process.

Figure 3 sets out a visual representation of the process.

Revision and reporting process of the national Good Food Nation Plan

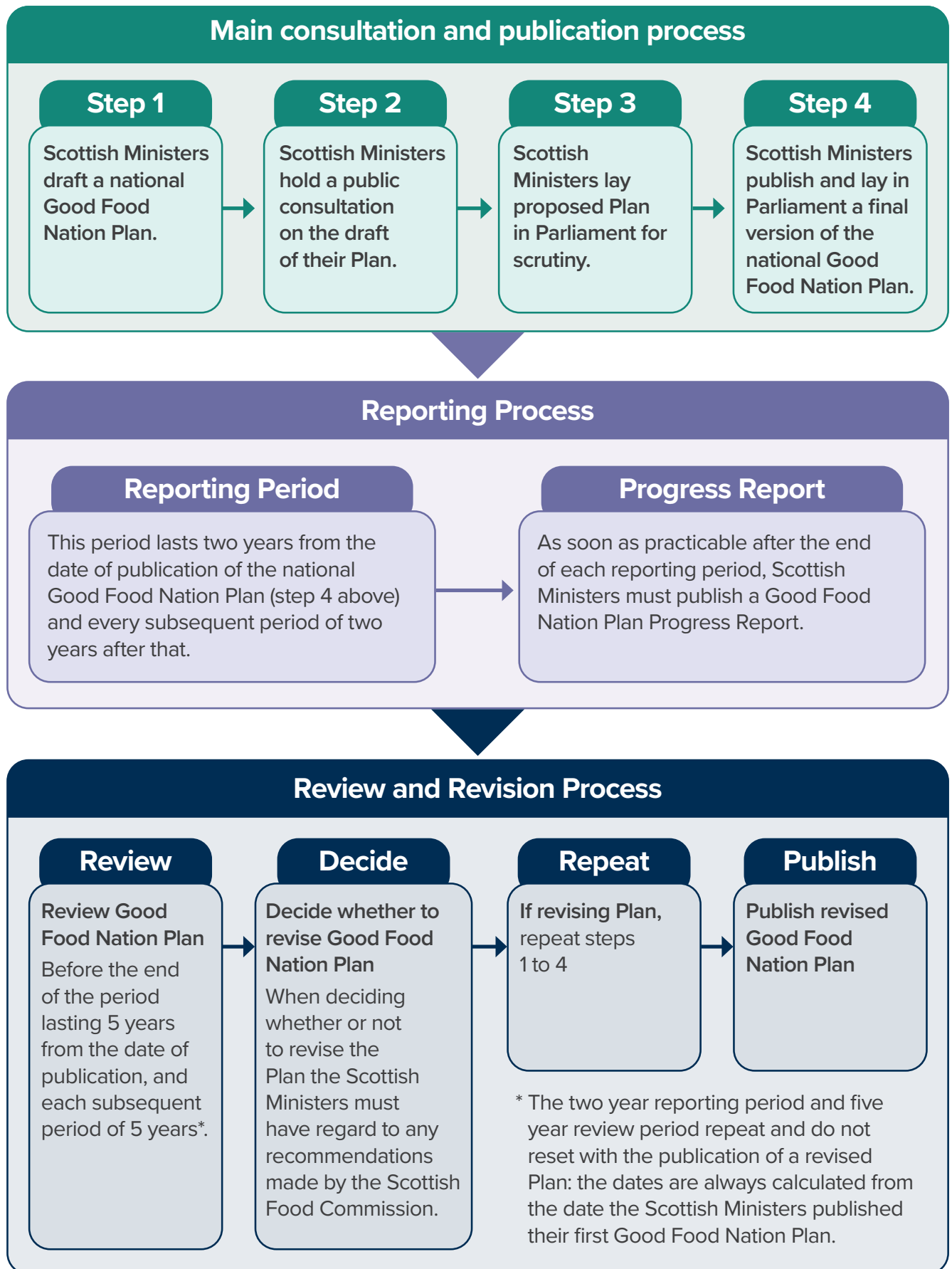


Figure 3 Revision and reporting process of the national Good Food Nation Plan

Part Three – Measuring Progress - Targets and Indicators

The complex nature of our food system, combined with the intentionally ambitious and far-reaching nature of the Good Food Nation Outcomes, requires an appropriate monitoring framework which can establish a baseline level of performance for our food system relative to our Outcomes. Through this framework we will monitor at a national level how different aspects of our food system that are aligned to our Outcomes are changing, highlighting over time areas where progress is being made and areas where challenges remain in realising our ambitious Outcomes. Being able to assess on a regular basis how Scotland's food system is performing is an essential element in our efforts to become a Good Food Nation.

The monitoring framework consists of several high-level data-driven primary indicators that relate to each Outcome. Our indicators are drawn from a range of sources but are primarily from existing official statistics produced elsewhere across the public sector that intersect with food policy and the Good Food Nation Outcomes (i.e. poverty, health, environmental, and economic statistics). These indicators have been compiled alongside relevant supporting evidence drawn from a wider consideration of existing research, identifying limitations where there are known evidence gaps to allow monitoring of some aspects of the Outcomes at this point in time. This is set out in greater detail in a separate analytical publication.

Targets

Alongside primary indicators we have also identified a set of targets, which will provide a further means of tracking progress in achieving the Outcomes. These are existing targets or a refinement of existing targets. As the work on Good Food Nation continues to progress, we will look to develop further targets if needed. Where appropriate, these targets are also highlighted in the monitoring framework. For others we may rely on the reporting arrangements of policy areas holding overall ownership of that policy. We have highlighted any targets and commitments alongside the relevant policies in Part Four of this Plan. Annex C contains a list of all targets and commitments for ease of reference.

The Good Food Nation Indicators

This part of the plan sets out the relevant indicators that we have used initially to set a baseline to monitor progress towards the Good Food Nation Outcomes. Further detail and context is provided in an accompanying analytical publication to the Plan – [‘National Good Food Nation Plan: Initial Monitoring Framework’](#). The plan sets out each relevant indicator, a short summary of recent trends in each indicator (a headline) and the baseline which will be used to track progress.

In line with the duty to report on the plan every 2 years, it is the intention that data is updated in line with reports on the Good Food Nation Plan.

In most cases, the baseline for all indicators will be set when data for 2025 becomes available (the year that the final Plan is introduced). For some indicators however, due to non-annual reporting cycles, data relating to 2025 will not be available. In these cases, data from the year closest to 2025 will be used. The data reported in

this publication is based on the most recent releases of these datasets available (as at 28 November 2025) at time of publication for each indicator.

Continuous improvement of Indicators

The indicator framework and associated targets are just a starting point and as time passes, we will ensure to continuously reflect and improve upon the way we measure progress against Good Food Nation Outcomes.

High quality sources of data are a key component for developing a robust monitoring framework. As well as being relevant and representative of the Outcomes, indicators should ideally be readily available, understandable, and accessible for use by a wide range of stakeholders, sensitive enough to detect changes over time, cost-effective to use and have low resource requirements for data collection and analysis.

Therefore, where evidence gaps remain, it is important to consider that alternative datasets that might be suggested as the basis of an indicator in future iterations of the Good Food Nation Plan must meet these broad criteria. We have highlighted current gaps and limitations of indicators where relevant, under each Outcome in the accompanying analytical publication.

Indicator Framework

This part of the plan sets out all of the indicators used in the plan, a brief headline summary of recent trends or key findings from each indicator and a baseline that will establish a common reference point for each indicator to help assess whether the Good Food Nation Plan is bringing about the positive change required to move our food system closer to one that aligns with the six ambitious Outcomes set out in the national Plan. Further detail on each indicator, including links to data sources and further contextual information and narrative is provided in the accompanying analytical publication to the Plan.

Outcome 1: The food environment in Scotland enables people to eat well. Everyone benefits from reliable and dignified access to safe, nutritious, affordable, enjoyable, sustainable and age-appropriate food.

Indicator 1A.1: Rate of price inflation for foods relative to overall prices

- **Headline:** Following a period of relative stability from 2015 to 2021, food prices have become a major driver of overall inflation since 2022.
- **Baseline:** It is estimated that in 2025, when compared to 2015, food prices will have increased (+40.9%) by 3.2 percentage points more than overall consumer prices (+37.7%).
- **Data source:** [Office for National Statistics, Consumer Price Index \(CPIH\)](#)

Indicator 1A.2: Individual level food insecurity

- **Headline:** Food insecurity reported by individuals increased significantly in 2023, but returned to previously recorded levels in 2024. Adults in single parent households were the most likely to experience food insecurity.

- Baseline: In 2024, 8% of adults were worried about running out of food, 6% of adults ate less food and 3% of adults ran out of food in the last 12 months. The baseline for indicator 1A.2 will be set when 2025 data is available.
- Data source: [Scottish Government, Scottish Health Survey 2024](#)

Indicator 1A.3: Uptake of school meal provision in schools (free or paid for)

- Headline: The overall uptake rate of school meals (free and paid for) was up in 2023-2024, marking a return to pre-pandemic levels. Uptake of school meals is highest among pupils with universal entitlement to free meals compared to where free meal provision is means-tested.
- Baseline: The latest data reflects school meal uptake in 2023-24 – which was 50.8% across all schools. A baseline will be set when 2024-25 data is published.
- Data source: [Scottish Government, School meal uptake statistics, 2023-24](#)

Indicator 1A.4: Drop off in breastfeeding from birth to 6-8 week review

- Headline: The overall drop off in the proportion of mothers that continue breastfeeding from birth to 6-8 week review point has been declining, falling by 10.5 percentage points between 2016/17 (35.8%) and 2024/25 (25.3%).
- Baseline: In 2024/2025, the percentage drop off in breastfeeding from birth to 6-8 weeks was 25.3%. This is the lowest recorded drop off rate. Higher drop off rates are observed in the most deprived quintile.
- Data source: [Public Health Scotland, Infant feeding statistics](#)

Indicator 1B.1: Proportion of the public who say they trust Food Standards Scotland

- Headline: Consumer trust in Food Standards Scotland (FSS) has remained high and broadly stable. FSS plays a critical role in ensuring businesses comply with the legal standards that protect the safety and authenticity of our food.
- Baseline: The latest data for indicator 1B.1 shows that the proportion of respondents with positive trust in FSS was 66%, as recorded in December 2024 (wave 19) of the Food in Scotland Consumer Tracker Survey. The baseline will be set for indicator 1B.1 when 2025 data is available.
- Data source: [Food Standards Scotland, Food in Scotland Consumer Tracker Survey](#)

Indicator 1B.2: Proportion of businesses that receive a Pass from the Food Hygiene Information Scheme

- **Headline:** All food businesses have a legal requirement to ensure the food they place on the market is safe. The percentage of businesses achieving a 'Pass' rating in the Food Hygiene Information Scheme (FHIS) has remained high, at over 90% since 2015-2016.
- **Baseline:** The percentage of Scottish food businesses with a FHIS 'Pass' in 2024 was 92.6%. A baseline for indicator 1B.2 will be set when 2025 data is available.
- **Data source:** [Food Standards Agency and Food Standards Scotland, Our Food 2024](#) and [Food Standards Scotland, Annual Report and Accounts](#)

Indicator 1B.3: Number of food samples tested for food safety, standards and authenticity in Scotland

- **Headline:** The number of food samples tested for food safety, standards and authenticity in Scotland have been declining, reaching a low in 2020/21 during the Covid-19 pandemic. Since 2020/21, sampling numbers have gradually increased.
- **Baseline:** The latest data for indicator 1B.3 shows that the number of samples reported by local authorities in 2024-25 was 4,402 (provisional figure).
- **Data source:** [Scottish Food Sampling Database](#)

Indicator 1C.1: Consumer-related changes to eating habits and food-related behaviours

- **Headline:** From Spring 2026, there will be new survey data available which will indicate how many people in Scotland are changing what they eat, motivated by health and/or sustainability reasons.
- **Baseline:** New data on food related behaviours will be published in early 2026 – when this is available this will set a baseline for this indicator going forward.
- **Data source:** [Food Standards Agency and Food Standards Scotland, Food and You 2 Survey](#)

Outcome 2: Scotland's food system is sustainable and contributes to a flourishing natural environment on our land and in our waters. It supports our net zero and climate adaptation ambitions and plays an important role in protecting and improving animal health and welfare and in restoring and regenerating biodiversity.

Indicator 2A.1: Greenhouse gas emissions from Scottish Agriculture

- **Headline:** Around a third of emissions from our food system were linked to agricultural activity. Total agriculture emissions have been in a long-term decline. In 2023, GHG emissions were at their lowest levels since the baseline period (1990).
- **Baseline:** The latest data for indicator 2A.1 shows that total emissions from agriculture in 2023 were 7.5 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (MtCO_{2e}). This is a decrease of 2% (0.2 MtCO_{2e}) compared with 2021. A baseline for indicator 2A.1 will be set when 2025 data is available.
- **Data Source:** [Scottish Government, Scottish agriculture greenhouse gas emissions and nitrogen use: 2023-24](#)

Indicator 2A.2: Total overall nitrogen application rates (kg/ha) on crops and grassland

- **Headline:** The agricultural sector is dependent on inputs of nitrogen (N), from both organic and inorganic sources. From 2000, the overall application rates of nitrogen fertilisers have decreased, with some fluctuation.
- **Baseline:** Overall nitrogen application rates (kilograms per hectare, or kg/ha) on crops and grassland in 2024 was 62 kg/ha. A baseline for indicator 2A.2 will be set when 2025 data is available.
- **Data source:** [Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs, British survey of fertiliser practice](#)

Indicator 2A.3: Estimated food waste generated per person from all sources

- **Headline:** In 2021, the per capita food waste was estimated to be 189 kg per person per year. This represents a 2% increase since 2013.
- **Baseline:** The baseline for indicator 2A.3 is an estimated 189 kg of food waste generated per person per year (2021). The methodology applied to arrive at this estimate is complex due to a variety of factors and will continue to be reviewed.
- **Data source:** [Zero Waste Scotland, 2021 Scottish Food Waste Estimate \(2024\)](#)

Indicator 2A.4: Climate adaptation

- **Climate change** is associated with a range of impacts across food processing, processing, distribution, retailing, consumption and the disposal of food waste. The Scottish National Adaptation Plan sets out a range of actions being undertaken to build Scotland's resilience to climate change – including the resilience of our food system.
- **Baseline:** N/A

- Data source: N/A

Indicator 2B.1: Terrestrial and Marine Species Abundance

- **Headline:** The activities in Scotland's food system and supply chain will continue to have an influence on biodiversity - particularly in relation to agricultural production and use of marine resources. There are a range of other drivers of biodiversity loss including climate change, pollution and the impact of invasive species.
- **Baseline:** The latest data for indicator 2B.1 is set at a Marine Abundance Index of 59.4 in 2019, and a Terrestrial Abundance Index of 101.3 in 2019. A baseline for indicator 2B.1 will be set when 2025 data is available.
- **Data source:** [Official Statistics - Marine and Terrestrial Species Indicators: Experimental Statistic | NatureScot](#)

Indicator 2B.2: Kilotons of air pollutant emissions from agriculture and food and drink

- **Headline:** Air pollutants associated with primary food production, such as ammonia, PM10 and PM2.5 are at lower or at similar levels to those recorded in 2005. However, Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) have increased significantly, with Scotch whisky maturation being a large contributor.
- **Baseline:** Since 2005, total pollutants from agriculture and food and drink for ammonia (NH₃), PM10 and PM2.5 have fallen to 12.1%, 2.6% and 10.8% in 2023 respectively. VOC however has increased by 48.6% since 2005, with 77% of the total VOC recorded from agriculture and food and drink coming from Scotch whisky maturation.
- **Data source:** [National Atmospheric Emission Inventory](#)

Indicator 2B.3: Total hectares under organic land management

- **Headline:** The total area of land under organic land management has increased in recent years from a record low in 2018. However, the total area remains lower compared to pre 2014-levels.
- **Baseline:** The latest data for indicator 2B.3 reports that the fully organic land area was 105.0 thousand hectares in 2024 and total hectares including in-conversion was 131.5. A baseline for indicator 2B.3 will be set when 2025 data is available.
- **Data source:** [Organic Farming in Scotland: 2024 - gov.scot](#)

Indicator 2B.4: National soil health

- **Headline:** Healthy soils and sustainable management of existing soil resources enable Scotland's food system to produce high quality food and drink products. Monitoring of soil health in a changing climate is a priority for the Scottish Government.
- **Baseline:** N/A
- **Data source:** N/A

Indicator 2C.1: Animal welfare concerns of Scottish consumers

- **Headline:** Animal welfare standards are an important food concern for Scottish consumers. Three-quarters of Scottish consumers reported being highly or somewhat concerned about animal welfare. Going forward, data will capture how often consumers check for information on animal welfare when purchasing food.
- **Baseline:** The latest data for indicator 2C.1 from 2023-2024 suggests that 75% of Scottish consumers were reportedly concerned about animal welfare. The question on level of concern about animal welfare is changing in future waves. From wave 11, a question on whether consumers check for information about animal welfare will be asked. A baseline for indicator 2C.1 will be set when this data is available in Spring 2026.
- **Data source:** [Food Standards Agency and Food Standards Scotland, Food and You 2 Survey: Scotland \(Wave 8\)](#)

Indicator 2C.2: Proportion of laying hens in Scotland that are either reared as free-range or organic

- **Headline 2C.2:** More than three-quarters of laying hens in Scotland are either free-range or organic in 2025. This has increased from just over half of laying hens in 2014.
- **Baseline 2C.2:** The baseline for indicator 2C.2 is that the proportion of laying hens reared as free-range or organic was 78% in April 2025.
- **Data source:** [Scottish Government Avian Registration Hub](#)

Indicator 2C.3: Livestock animals inspected by local authorities every year in Scotland

- **Headline:** The number of livestock animals inspected by local authorities has increased in recent years and is more in line with numbers recorded before the Covid-19 pandemic.
- **Baseline:** The latest data for indicator 2C.3 reports that 790,634 livestock animals were inspected or assessed in markets and other premises or holdings

by local authorities in 2024. A baseline for indicator 2C.3 will be set when 2025 data is available.

- Data source: [Scottish Government, Animal Health Act 1981: Expenditure and Prosecutions - 2024](#)

Indicator 2C.4: Herd prevalence of bovine tuberculosis (TB) in Scotland

- **Headline:** Scotland is recognised as being officially TB free with consistently low and stable prevalence of bovine tuberculosis (TB) in Scottish cattle herds.
- **Baseline:** The latest data on herd prevalence of TB in Scottish Cattle herds was 0.1% in 2024. A baseline for indicator 2C.4 will be set when 2025 data is available.
- Data source: [Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs, Bovine Tuberculosis statistics](#)

Indicator 2D.1: The proportion of commercial stocks fished at sustainable levels

- **Headline:** The sustainability status of stocks in Scottish waters has increased through time.
- **Baseline:** The sustainability status of stocks in Scottish waters has increased through time to a high of 73% in 2023. A baseline for indicator 2D.1 will be set when 2025 data for the Scottish Sustainable Fishing Indicator is available.
- Data source: [The Scottish Sustainable Fishing Indicator \(SFI\)](#)

Indicator 2D.2: Atlantic Salmon production volumes

- **Headline:** Atlantic Salmon production has grown from very low levels to be a high value food product that is the UK's biggest single food export. The total production of Atlantic salmon during 2024 was 192,000 tonnes, an increase of 41,051 tonnes (27%) on the 2023 total.²⁶
- **Baseline:** The total production of Atlantic salmon during 2024 was 192,000 tonnes, an increase of 41,051 tonnes (27%) on the 2023 total. A baseline for indicator 2D.2 will be set when 2025 data is available. Total production for 2025 is estimated to be 195,182 tonnes, this value is a sector estimate based on stocks currently being on-grown.
- Data source: [Scottish Government, Scottish fish farm production surveys](#)

²⁶ Scotland has a robust legislative and regulatory framework in place which provides the right balance between developing the fish farming sector and protecting the environment on which the sector depends.

Outcome 3: Scotland's food environment and wider food system enables and promotes a physically and mentally healthy population. This leads to the prevention of, and a reduction in, diet-related conditions.

Indicator 3A.1: Mean portions of fruit and vegetables consumed by adults

- **Headline:** Mean fruit and vegetable consumption by adults in Scotland remains well below the Scottish Dietary Goal of 5 portions per day.
- **Baseline:** The latest data for indicator 3A.1 shows that 2.9 portions of fruit and vegetables are consumed on average by adults per day in 2024, the lowest mean recorded. This will be the baseline for indicator 3A.1 as this data is collected every 3 years.
- **Data source:** [Scottish Government, Scottish Health Survey 2024](#)

Indicator 3A.2: Mean portions of fruit and vegetables consumed by children

- **Headline:** Mean fruit and vegetable consumption among children in 2023 remained at the higher end of the range recorded since 2008, but remains short of the Scottish Dietary Goal.
- **Baseline:** The latest data for indicator 3A.2 is set at 3.1 portions of fruit and vegetables are consumed by children per day (2023, Scottish Health Survey data). A baseline for indicator 3A.2 will be set when 2025 data is available.
- **Data source:** [Scottish Government, Scottish Health Survey 2023](#)

Indicator 3A.3: Proportion of adults meeting Scottish Dietary Goals on fibre, free sugars and red and red-processed meat

- **Headline:** In 2024, the vast majority of adults in Scotland did not meet dietary goals for fibre (of 30g per day) and only a fifth met the goal for free sugar consumption (maximum of 5% energy from free sugars). Most adults do meet the goal to eat no more than an average of 70g of red and red-processed meat per day.
- **Baseline:** The latest data for indicator 3A.3 shows that in 2024:
3% of adults meeting the SDG for fibre intake;
22% of adults meeting the SDG for free sugar intake and;
74% of adults meeting the SDG for red and red-processed meat intake
This will be the baseline for indicator 3A.3 as this data is collected every 3 years.
- **Data source:** [Scottish Government, Scottish Health Survey 2024](#)

Indicator 3B.1: The proportion of adults with a healthy weight (as measured by BMI)

- **Headline:** The proportion of adults with a healthy weight has remained relatively stable over time from 2012 to 2024. Although the proportion of adults that are overweight has decreased slightly over this period, the proportion that are living with obesity (including morbid obesity) has increased.
- **Baseline:** The latest data for indicator 3B.1 shows that 33% of adults had a healthy weight in 2024. A baseline for indicator 3B.1 will be set when 2025 data is available.
- **Data source:** [Scottish Government, Scottish Health Survey 2024](#)

Indicator 3B.2: The difference in the proportion of adults with a healthy weight (as measured by body mass index (BMI)) in the most and least deprived quintile of the population

- **Headline:** The difference in the proportions of adults with a healthy weight between the least and most deprived has fluctuated over time.
- **Baseline:** The latest data for indicator 3B.2 indicates that the difference in the proportion of adults in healthy weight categories for the least and most deprived quintiles was 11% in 2024. A baseline for indicator 3B.2 will be set when 2025 data is available.
- **Data source:** [Scottish Government, Scottish Health Survey 2024](#)

Indicator 3B.3: The proportion of children with a healthy weight (as measured by BMI)

- **Headline:** More than six in ten children were in the healthy weight range as measured by BMI in 2024. This proportion has been in the range 64% to 72% since 1998.
- **Baseline:** The latest data for indicator 3B.3 shows that the proportion of children with a healthy weight was 65% in 2024. A baseline for indicator 3B.3 will be set when 2025 data is available.
- **Data source:** [Scottish Government, Scottish Health Survey 2024](#)

Indicator 3B.4: The difference in the proportion of children with a healthy weight (as measured by BMI) in the most and least deprived quintile of the population

- **Headline:** In 2024, 59% of children in the most deprived communities in Scotland have a healthy weight, compared to 74% in the least deprived communities.
- **Baseline:** The latest data for indicator 3B.4 shows the difference in healthy weight categories for the least and most deprived quintiles of children was 15% in 2024. A baseline for indicator 3B.2 will be set when 2025 data is available.
- **Data source:** [Scottish Government, Scottish Health Survey 2024](#)

Indicator 3C.1: Prevalence of cardiovascular disease in the adult population

- **Headline:** Prevalence of cardiovascular disease (CVD) in adults has remained broadly stable. In 2024, there was a significant reduction in the prevalence gap between adults in the most and least deprived areas.
- **Baseline:** The latest data for indicator 3C.1 indicates that CVD prevalence in the adult population was 16% in 2024. A baseline for indicator 3C.1 will be set when 2025 data is available.
- **Data source:** [Scottish Government, Scottish Health Survey 2024](#)

Indicator 3C.2: Prevalence of doctor-diagnosed diabetes in the adult population

- **Headline:** Prevalence of doctor-diagnosed diabetes in adults has remained broadly stable, however rates are higher for adults in more deprived areas.
- **Baseline:** The latest data for indicator 3C.2 indicates that doctor-diagnosed diabetes prevalence in the adult population was 8% in 2024. The difference in diabetes prevalence between the most and least deprived areas of 5 percentage points. A baseline for indicator 3C.2 will be set when 2025 data is available.
- **Data source:** [Scottish Government, Scottish Health Survey 2024](#)

Indicator 3C.3: Percentage of Primary 1 (P1) children with no obvious tooth decay

- **Headline:** Child oral health has improved over recent decades. In 2024, more than 7 in 10 P1 children examined showed no obvious decay experience. Inequalities between the least and most deprived areas remain.
- **Baseline:** The latest data for indicator 3C.3 is set at 73.2% which is the proportion of children with no obvious tooth decay recorded in 2024 and the difference in prevalence between the most and least deprived areas is 23.5 percentage points.
- **Data source:** [Public Health Scotland, National Dental Inspection Programme \(NDIP\)](#)

3D: The food system contributes to positive mental health outcomes across the population

- **Headline:** An improved food system is expected to contribute positively to mental health outcomes for Scotland's population. However, a suitable indicator used to assess and monitor this has not been identified at this stage, with further work required to develop indicators.

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 throughout food supply chains.

Indicator 4A.1: Real Gross Value Added (GVA) of the food and drink sector

- **Headline:** Following the Covid-19 pandemic, real economic output from the food and drink sector (as measured by Real GVA) contracted sharply in 2023. Although 2024 showed some recovery, recent data indicates the sector is contracting again in 2025.
- **Baseline:** The latest GDP data (Q2 2025) shows that output in the food and drink sector decreased by 2.9% compared with the same quarter in the previous year (Q2 2024). This compared to overall GDP growth of 0.9% over the same period. A baseline for indicator 4A.1 will be set when all 2025 data is available.
- **Source:** [Scottish Government, Industry Statistics Database](#)

Indicator 4A.2: The proportion of new food and drink businesses that survive after 1-5 years

- **Headline:** Recent data suggests a lower proportion of new businesses registered in 2022 in the food and drink sector continued to trade after one year compared to previous years; but the longer-term picture is less clear.
- **Baseline:** In the latest estimates for indicator 4A.2, 89.3% of business births in 2022 survived after 1 year, whilst the 5 year survival rate for business births in 2018 was 58.3%. A baseline for indicator 4A.2 will be set when 2025 data is available.
- **Data Source:** [Scottish Government, Industry Statistics Database](#)

Indicator 4A.3: The percentage of businesses in the food and drink sector that are innovation active

- **Headline:** Food & drink businesses are more 'innovation-active' than businesses generally, but their innovation activity declined in 2020-22.
- **Baseline:** The latest data available for indicator 4A.3 finds that 55.6% of businesses were innovation active within the food and drink sector in Scotland in 2020-22. A baseline for indicator 4A.3 will be set when 2022-24 data is available.
- **Data Source:** [Scottish Government, UK Innovation Survey 2023](#)

Indicator 4A.4: Average Farm Business Income (with and without subsidy)

- **Headline:** After record high values in 2022-23, average farm income in 2023-24 was the lowest estimated since 2019-20 (after adjusting for inflation).
- **Baseline:** The latest data for indicator 4A.4 reports that average farm income in 2023-24 was around £35,500, whilst average farm income without support was - £11,000. A baseline for indicator 4A.4 will be set when 2024-25 data is available.
- **Data Source:** [Scottish Government, Scottish Farm Business Income](#)

Indicator 4B.1: Median earnings in the food and drink sector

- **Headline:** Median pay in the food and drink sector has increased at a similar rate to the average across all sectors in recent years. However, overall pay levels in the sector remain below the all-sector median.
- **Baseline:** The latest data for indicator 4B.1 reports that median weekly gross pay in 2024 for full-time employees in the food & drink sector was £670.70 per week. This was equivalent to 91% of the median across all sectors. A baseline for indicator 4B.1 will be set when 2025 data is available.
- **Data Source:** [Scottish Government, Industry Statistics Database](#)

Indicator 4B.2: Number of Modern Apprenticeship starts in the food and drink sector

- **Headline:** The number of Modern Apprenticeship starts and 'achievements' in the food and drink sector has increased over time from 2021-22 to 2024-25.
- **Baseline:** The latest data for indicator 4B.2 finds that in the food and drink sector in 2024/25 there were 1,036 Modern Apprenticeship starts made, 921 in training and an achievement rate of 80.8%. This forms the baseline for indicator 4B.2.
- **Data Source:** [Skills Development Scotland, Modern Apprenticeship Data](#)

Indicator 4B.3: Gender Pay Gap for full-time employees in the food manufacturing sector

- **Headline:** The Gender Pay Gap for Median Gross Hourly earnings (excluding overtime) in the food manufacturing sector has narrowed over time, but remains consistently higher than the Gender Pay Gap across all industries and services.
- **Baseline:** The Gender Pay Gap for Median Gross Hourly earnings (excluding overtime) for full-time employees in the manufacture of food products sector was 13.3% in 2025. This compared to a gender pay gap of 13.2% in all manufacturing overall and 3.5% in all industries and services in Scotland.
- **Data Source:** [Office for National Statistics, Gender pay gap](#)

Indicator 4C.1: UK food production to supply ratio (value based)

- **Headline:** The UK's overall balance of trade and domestic production of food remains broadly stable. The UK continues to source food from domestic production and trade at around an overall 65:35 ratio.
- **Baseline:** The production-to-supply ratio was at 65% for all food and 77% for indigenous foods (meaning those that can be grown in the UK) in 2024. This is the latest data for indicator 4C.1. A baseline for indicator 4C.1 will be set when 2025 data is available.
- **Data Source:** [Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs, Agriculture in the United Kingdom](#)

Indicator 4C.2: Total agricultural land area used to produce fruit and vegetables for human consumption

- **Headline:** The area of land in Scotland that is cultivated for fruit and vegetable production has increased by around one third (+33.4%) in the past 10 years, but represents only 0.5% of total agricultural land.
- **Baseline:** The latest data for indicator 4C.2 is that 24,799 hectares is the total land area used for growing soft fruits, orchard fruits and vegetables for human consumption in 2025.
- **Data Source:** [Scottish Government, Scottish Agricultural Census: results](#)

Indicator 4C.3: Scottish production to supply ratios for key food commodities (volume based)

- **Headline:** After accounting for annual variations, Scotland produces more than it consumes across a range of agricultural commodities. Scotland is a net exporter of fish, cereals (barley and oats), potatoes, beef, dairy and eggs. Scotland is a net importer of pork, fruits and vegetables.
- **Baseline:** For indicator 4C.3, average self-sufficiency ratios across each commodity has been calculated from 2003 to 2024²⁷. Annual data is presented as a 5-year average – to account for any annual variability in agricultural production, for example. The 5-year average in 2024 will be a baseline for future monitoring.
- **Data Source:** [Rathnayaka, S. D., Revoredo-Giha, C., & de Roos, B. \(2024\). Assessing Scotland's self-sufficiency of major food commodities.](#)

Indicator 4C.4: Total food supply available for human consumption globally

- **Headline:** Over the long-term global food production has continued to grow and keep up with population growth.

²⁷ Figures for 2022, 2023 and 2024 are preliminary

- Baseline: Total food supply available for human consumption was 3,016 kilocalories per person per day in 2023, increasing by 74 calories from 2019. This is the latest data for indicator 4C.4. A baseline for indicator 4C.4 will be set when 2025 data is available.
- Data Source: [Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Food Balances](#)

Outcome 5: People and communities are empowered to participate in, and shape, their food system. Scotland has a thriving food culture with a population who are educated about good and sustainable food.

Indicator 5A.1: Availability of allotments and community growing in local areas

- Headline: There are wide-ranging benefits for people associated with growing their own food in allotments and other community growing sites. Data on allotment availability and waiting lists are held at a local authority level.
- Baseline: N/A
- Data Source: N/A

Indicator 5A.2: Proportion of adults that had 'grown fruit and vegetables to consume in the home' in their garden or allotment

- Headline: In 2024, more than 3 in 10 adults (who had a garden or allotment) had grown fruit and vegetables to consume in the home. This increases in households with children.
- Baseline: In 2024, 35% of adults had grown fruit and vegetables to consume in the home in their garden or allotment. A baseline for indicator 5A.2 will be set when 2025 data is available.
- Data Source: [NatureScot, NatureScot Opinion Survey 2024](#)

Indicator 5B.1: Number of local authorities with a Food for Life Served Here certification

- Headline: Half of local authorities have a Food for Life Served Here (FFLSH) certification for some or all of their school meal services.
- Baseline: The latest data for indicator 5B.1 shows that 16 of Scotland's 32 local authorities have a Food for Life Served Here certification at bronze, silver or gold in 2025.
- Data Source: [Soil Association Scotland, Management Information of FFLSH scheme](#)

Indicator 5B.2: Number of school learners reached by the Food for Thought Programme

- **Headline:** Since the opening of the Food for Thought Fund, the number of learners has decreased over time.
- **Baseline:** The latest data for indicator 5B.2 is that in 2023/24, there were 12,425 learners reached by the Food for Thought Programme. A baseline for indicator 5B.2 will be set when data collection resumes.
- **Data Source:** [Education Scotland, Food For Thought Management Information](#)

Indicator 5B.3: Proportion of households reporting to undertake sustainable food actions

- **Headline:** Over half of households report always or often intentionally buying seasonal fruit and vegetables in 2024, whilst over a third report always or often buying locally produced food.
- **Baseline:** In 2024, 53% of people reported that they always or often intentionally bought seasonal fruit and vegetables, and 36% of people reported that they always or often intentionally buy locally produced food. This is the baseline for indicator 5B.3.
- **Data Source:** [Scottish Government, Scottish Climate Survey 2024](#)

5C: Scotland has a thriving 'food culture' that supports overall health and wellbeing

- **Headline:** A thriving 'food culture' in Scotland is expected to support overall health and wellbeing of the Scottish population. However, a suitable indicator used to assess and monitor this has not been identified at this stage, with further work required to develop indicators.

Outcome 6: Decisions we make in Scotland contribute positively to local and global food systems transformation. Scotland actively engages in learning and exchanging knowledge and best practice internationally.

Indicator 6A.1: Number of food and drink products in Scotland recognised under Geographical Indication schemes (PDO, PGI)

- **Headline:** Food and drink products recognised under Geographical Indication (GI) schemes has increased from 6 in 1996, to 16 currently (this includes Native Shetland Wool). There have been no new food products designated under GI schemes since 2020.
- **Baseline:** 16 food and drink products (including Native Shetland Wool) had either a Protected Geographical Indication or Protected Destination of Origin

designation under UK and EU Geographical Indication schemes which were sourced entirely (or in part) from Scotland.

- Data Source: [Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs, Protected geographical food and drink names](#)

Indicator 6A.2: The value of Scottish food and drink international exports in current prices and real terms

- **Headline:** Scotland's food and drink exports have been relatively stable over time as seen in both current and real terms.
- **Baseline:** The latest data for this indicator is £7.12 billion of food and drink exports in the year ending Q4 2024²⁸, according to inflation-adjusted HMRC Regional Trade Statistics. A baseline will be set when Q4 2025 data is available.
- Data Source: [Scottish Government, Inflation Adjusted HMRC Regional Trade Statistics for Scotland](#)

Indicator 6A.3: The proportion of visitors to Scotland that highlighted that 'Scotland's food and drink' was a reason for their visit

- **Headline:** 15% of visitors to Scotland were motivated to visit due to Scotland's food and drink.
- **Baseline:** In 2023, 15% of visitors to Scotland highlighted food and drink as a reason for choosing to visit Scotland. This is the baseline for indicator 6A.3. Future updates are expected to be available every 3-4 years.
- Data Source: [Visit Scotland, Scotland Visitor Survey](#)

6B: Scotland food sector makes a positive contribution to global food system transformation

- **Headline:** Scotland's food sector makes many positive contributions to global food system transformation. However, a suitable indicator used to assess and monitor this has not been identified at this stage, with further work required to develop indicators.

²⁸ Partial year data cover the first two quarters of 2025 has been published. This showed in the year ending Q2 2025 data, food and drink exports were worth £7.18 billion.

Part Four – Food-Related Policies

The Good Food Nation (Scotland) Act 2022 requires that the Plan sets out the policies that the Scottish Ministers intend to pursue in order to secure the achievement of the Outcomes set out in Part One.

This section of the Plan showcases that the Scottish Government is already implementing many policies that contribute towards securing our Good Food Nation ambitions. This is the first national Good Food Nation Plan: it establishes a baseline that will enable us to adequately understand the current position.

The Scottish Ministers (and, in practice, the policy officials who act on their behalf) are required to have regard to this Good Food Nation Plan when exercising functions specified in secondary legislation (see [page 21](#) for a fuller explanation of specified functions). This part of the Plan is designed to assist in that process.

We have listed the Scottish Government's food related policies and cross-referenced each individual policy area with the Outcome(s) that it contributes towards. We also provide links to relevant documents to simplify the task of finding detailed information.

This approach means that policy officials will easily be able to establish the Good Food Nation Outcome(s) to which their particular policy area contributes, whilst also quickly identifying other policy areas that support those same Outcome(s). This will encourage policy officials to make links with other areas and foster a collaborative approach to policymaking.

We have organised the policies and actions into three categories based around key groups in the food system: People and Communities; Providers and Places; and Farmers, Food Producers and Processers.

Of course, not all policies will fall neatly into one of these categories. However, we believe that organising them in this manner emphasises that achieving a Good Food Nation requires action across the food system. Our policies now, and going forward, will identify key areas of action to help everyone in Scotland play their part in the Good Food Nation.

People and Communities

This section sets out policies that are helping people and communities enjoy a better food system. Policies in this section contribute to improving the food environment, which is a key objective in building a Good Food Nation, as we recognise that this is the best way to support everyone to eat in a healthy way. These include policies that focus on securing better access to healthy and sustainable food and making it easier to follow a healthy diet.

Scotland can only become a Good Food Nation with the participation and co-operation of those who live and work here. The important role that third sector and community organisations are already playing in this has to be recognised. Many third sector organisations are valued partners in the delivery of policies across the Scottish Government.

The ultimate aim is to help to make Scotland a better and more prosperous place for everyone: a place where people are happy, healthy, and secure. The policies outlined in this chapter are steps towards achieving all our Good Food Nation Outcomes and making them a reality.

Our vision is that everyone living in a Good Food Nation will have reliable and dignified access to safe, nutritious, affordable, enjoyable, sustainable, and age-appropriate food.

People will benefit from a sustainable food system that plays a role in improving biodiversity and treats animals with care. People can enjoy good food locally and will be able to make well-informed decisions in relation to their food.

Best Start to Life in A Good Food Nation

Summary of policies

- To support, promote and protect breastfeeding by legally safeguarding the right to breastfeed and bottle feed infants up to the age of 2 years in public places; by supporting the Breastfeeding Friendly Scotland national scheme; by providing guidance to health boards and local authorities on actions they can take to improve breastfeeding experiences and the duration of breastfeeding; and by supporting the implementation of the UNICEF UK Baby Friendly Initiative across NHS settings and in communities to help us to make progress towards our target to reduce drop-off in breastfeeding rates at the 6 to 8 week point by 10% by 2025.
- To support parents and childcare providers to make informed choices about children's diets through the provision of guidance such as Setting the Table, which provides guidance around food provision in early learning and childcare settings, and the Parent Club website which gives advice directly to parents and carers.
- To improve access to healthy foods and milk, Best Start Foods provides pregnant women and families with children under the age of three who receive certain benefits with a minimum of £5.40 a week via a pre-paid card to buy these items. The payment doubles from birth until a child turns one to support breastfeeding mothers or help with the costs of providing first infant formula milk.
- To establish good oral health care habits from an early age (pre-school, nursery and primary school) through the Childsmile programme with its focus on regular

toothbrushing, application of fluoride varnish in the 20% most deprived areas, dietary advice and general dental practice registration for prevention and intervention.

- To embed the Eat Well for Oral Health programme to positively influence lifestyle behaviours and socio-cultural norms across individuals, families and disadvantaged communities, particularly those associated with diet, by linking with third sector partners empowering people living in vulnerable circumstances; helping people to make informed food choices; and enhancing cooking skills.

These policies will support our target to halve childhood obesity by 2030 and significantly reduce associated diet-related health inequalities supporting work on implementation of the Population Health Framework.

Policy/Policy Area	Linked Good Food Nation Outcome(s)	Links to any relevant Documents or Legislation
Breastfeeding and Infant Feeding	Outcome 1 Outcome 3	Improving maternal and infant nutrition: a framework for action Becoming Breastfeeding Friendly Scotland: report A healthier future: Scotland's diet and healthy weight delivery plan Breastfeeding etc. (Scotland) Act 2005 Breastfeeding and Your Business Breastfeeding and Infant Feeding: Strategic Framework 2025-2030
Early Nutrition and Diet	Outcome 1 Outcome 3 Outcome 5	Setting the table Improving maternal and infant nutrition: a framework for action Population Health Framework Scottish Dietary Goals 2021 Out Of Home Action Plan Code of practice for children's menus: principles, actions, and top tips Food & Eating Parent Club
Best Start Foods	Outcome 1 Outcome 3 Outcome 5	Best Start, Bright Futures: tackling child poverty delivery plan 2022 to 2026 Best Start Foods: evaluation
Scottish Milk and Healthy Snack Scheme	Outcome 1 Outcome 3 Outcome 5	Milk and Healthy Snack Scheme Scottish Milk and Healthy Snack Scheme: Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities and Participating (Registered) Day Care Settings

Children's oral health	Outcome 1 Outcome 3 Outcome 5	Childsmile – Improving the oral health of children in Scotland Community Challenge Fund – End of Fund Findings Report – Scottish Dental
------------------------	-------------------------------------	--

Provision of food in Early Learning and Childcare in a Good Food Nation

Summary of policies

- To provide a daily portion of fruit or vegetables and milk or a specified non-dairy alternative to all children attending regulated preschool childcare settings, for 2 hours of more, which participate in the Scottish Milk and Healthy Snack Scheme.
- To provide all children in funded Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) with a free, healthy, nutritious meal in their ELC setting for every day they attend.
- To provide guidance to ELC settings to ensure children are offered nutritious meals, snacks and drinks at ELC settings whether funded or paid for.

Provision of food in Schools in a Good Food Nation

Summary of policies

- To ensure that children and young people are provided with balanced and nutritious food as part of their school day in order to support healthy growth and development. The Scottish Government seeks to improve the nutritional quality of diets of children and young people and to promote healthy eating habits by setting nutritional standards with which schools must comply.
- To provide free school meals to all pupils in Primaries 1-5, all pupils in special schools, and eligible pupils from P6-S6. To continue with the expansion of free school meals to all primary school pupils, starting with pupils in P6 and P7 whose families are in receipt of Scottish Child Payment, and the establishment of a test of change in 8 local authority areas for pupils in S1-S3 whose families are in receipt of Scottish Child Payment.

School Age Childcare in a Good Food Nation

Summary of policies

- To encourage integration of food provision across school age childcare, wherever this is appropriate, to help to address food insecurity in a rights-based, dignified and stigma-free way. The Scottish Government is funding a range of work across Scotland through our childcare Early Adopter Communities, Scottish Football Association 'Extra Time' Programme, and Access to Childcare projects which includes consideration of the importance of provision of food within school age childcare settings.
- To expand access to breakfasts clubs across Scotland by creating more free places for primary school children over the 25/26 academic year, delivered through the £3m Bright Start Breakfasts fund. The funding will be used to provide access to a healthy and nutritious breakfast for children and enable early drop-off for working parents.

- To ensure children continue to receive support to access food outwith term time through continued funding for alternatives to free school meals during holiday periods. To ensure clarity around the food standards that must be met within school age childcare settings, including breakfast clubs, whether provided on or off school premises. The Scottish Government will work with the Care Inspectorate and Education Scotland, sector representative bodies and service providers to improve understanding and awareness.

Policy/Policy Area	Linked Good Food Nation Outcome(s)	Links to any relevant Documents or Legislation
Early Learning and Childcare Meal Provision	Outcome 1 Outcome 3 Outcome 5	National Standard for Early Learning and Childcare Providers Setting the Table
School Meal Provision	Outcome 1 Outcome 3 Outcome 5	Education (Scotland) Act 1980 Programme for Government 2024-25: Serving Scotland Nutritional Requirements for Food and Drink in Schools (Scotland) Regulations 2020 Healthy Eating in Schools 2020
School Age Childcare Food Provision	Outcome 1 Outcome 3 Outcome 5	Delivery Framework for School Age Childcare 2 Eradicating Child Poverty - Programme for Government 2025 to 2026 - gov.scot Bright Start Breakfasts fund information and guidance Nutritional Requirements for Food and Drink in Schools (Scotland) Regulations 2020 Healthy Eating in Schools 2020

Education for a Good Food Nation

Summary of policies

- To educate children and young people about food through the Curriculum for Excellence. The Health and Wellbeing curriculum content is an entitlement of all children aged 3 to 18 in Scotland and includes learning about food and health. Learning and teaching is designed to help learners develop their understanding of a healthy diet, understand the role of food within social and cultural contexts and develop awareness that food practices and choices depend on many factors including availability, sustainability, season, cost, advertising, and the media.

- The Scottish Government also supports the provision of food-related education by funding specific targeted initiatives and projects, including the Royal Highland Education Trust’s programme of farm visits for schools and the Royal Environmental Health Institute for Scotland’s Food and Health/Food and Hygiene courses.

Policy/Policy Area	Linked Good Food Nation Outcome(s)	Links to any relevant Documents or Legislation
Food Education	Outcome 1 Outcome 3 Outcome 5	Curriculum for Excellence: Health and wellbeing: Experiences and outcomes Diet and healthy weight: out of home action plan

Access to food for all in a Good Food Nation

Summary of policies

- To reduce the number of children living in poverty in Scotland through wide-ranging action by implementing our Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan, This includes ‘Best Start, Bright Futures’, covering the period 2022-26, which sets out action to increase household incomes and reduce the costs of living through continued investment in, for example, the Scottish Child Payment, employability services, free bus travel for all under 22s, and our Affordable Housing Supply Programme. A further delivery plan for the period 2026-31 will be published by the end of March 2026.
- To promote cash-first responses to financial hardship, reducing the need for emergency food aid in line with ‘Cash First: Towards Ending the Need for Food Banks in Scotland’, and to ensure that, where support through emergency income is not appropriate, any direct food aid is provided in a manner that maximises dignity.
- To ensure that everyone in Scotland has access to the food that meets their needs, preferences and supports their wellbeing, our policies on access to food also contribute to our commitments to:
 - Reduce the number of households facing moderate to severe food insecurity.
 - Reduce the reported number of households accessing emergency food provision.
 - Improve access to food for households living in remote rural areas.
 - Improve access to food that is appropriate for households from diverse cultural backgrounds.

Policy/Policy Area	Linked Good Food Nation Outcome(s)	Links to any relevant Documents or Legislation
Household Food Insecurity	Outcome 1 Outcome 3	Food insecurity and poverty - United Nations: Scottish Government response Cash-First: Towards Ending the Need for Food Banks in Scotland
Tackling Child Poverty	Outcome 1 Outcome 3	Every child, every chance: tackling child poverty delivery plan 2018-2022 Best Start, Bright Futures: tackling child poverty delivery plan 2022 to 2026 Best Start, Bright Futures - tackling child poverty: progress report 2024-2025 Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 Programme for Government 2025-26: Building The Best Future for Scotland

A Healthy Diet in a Good Food Nation

Summary of policies

- To improve the quality of the Scottish diet and encourage the people of Scotland to follow a healthy diet through implementation of actions under the Population Health Framework, by giving children the best start in life, making the food environment support the provision of healthy options, reducing malnutrition, and by improving access to effective weight management services.
- To support consumers to achieve a healthier diet in line with the Scottish Dietary Goals and the Eatwell Guide, through the provision of clear and practical dietary guidance such as the Eat Well, Your Way. Acknowledging the social, cultural and environmental influences on food choice, Eat Well, Your Way offers tips and advice on how to make small manageable changes that can be sustained. The resource is aimed at lower income populations, including adults and families, who are often most in need of support.
- The Eating Out, Eating Well Framework seeks to improve access to a healthy diet out of home through a new voluntary framework to support outlets in the provision of healthier menus, including through a code of practice for children's menus.
- These policies will help us in achieving our commitments to reduce diet-related health inequalities and increase levels of healthy weight across the population in line with the Population Health Framework and a new Diet and Healthy Weight Implementation plan.
- To support messaging on positive oral health behaviours and promote oral health self-care to the 95% of the population currently registered with a dentist in Scotland through the recently reformed payment structures for General Dental Services, which now includes prevention and lifestyle advice, including on diet and nutrition.

- To make the balance of products available on promotion healthier, we have laid The Food (Promotion and Placement) (Scotland) Regulations 2025 before the Scottish Parliament on 31 October. These regulations seek to reduce overconsumption of high fat, salt and/or sugar products that can contribute to overweight and obesity; and contribute to reducing population levels of overweight and obesity and their consequent health harms.

Policy/Policy Area	Linked Good Food Nation Outcome(s)	Links to any relevant Documents or Legislation
Healthy diet	Outcome 3 Outcome 5	Population Health Framework Scottish Dietary Goals Eatwell Guide Eat Well, Your Way Food Standards Scotland The Scottish Diet: It Needs To Change National Planning Framework 4 Eating out, eating well framework and code of practice for children’s menus. The Food (Promotion and Placement)(Scotland) Regulations 2025
Mental Wellbeing for Adults	Outcome 3	Mind to Mind NHS inform
Eating Disorders	Outcome 3	National Review of Eating Disorder Services: report and recommendations
Women’s Health	Outcome 3	Women’s Health Plan
Oral Health	Outcome 1 Outcome 3 Outcome 5	Oral health improvement plan - gov.scot

Increasing Access to Land for Communities

Summary of policies

- We will empower and encourage people to discover and take advantage of the wide-ranging benefits which can come from growing their own food in allotments and other community growing sites by providing funding to third sector organisations.
- We aim to make more land available for community growing and to enable more people to access growing sites and allotments by supporting local authorities meet the legislative duties regarding allotments imparted by Part 9 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015.
- The Community Right to Buy review (due to complete by the end of 2025) will make recommendations to improve existing Community Right To Buy processes, with the aim of increasing community ownership and ensure a consistent approach with the Land Reform (Scotland) Bill. To help community bodies have

additional options to buy land and to give them more of a say in how land is used, the Land Reform (Scotland) Bill ensures that communities have advance notice of potential sales from large landholdings and will ensure large landowners engage with communities on their plans for their landholdings.

- To support those who undertake community planning, and building on the provisions in the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act, the Scottish Government published statutory guidance on Community Planning Partnerships in 2016. The guidance sets out the expectations of Community Planning Partnerships and the principles that underpin effective community planning, including co-production with the local community, collaborative leadership and a focus on reducing inequalities.

Policy/Policy Area	Linked Good Food Nation Outcome(s)	Links to any relevant Documents or Legislation
Allotments and Community Growing	Outcome 2 Outcome 3 Outcome 5	Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 National Planning Framework 4 Food and Drink - Grow Your Own
Community Right to Buy Review	Outcome 2 Outcome 3 Outcome 5	Community Rights to Buy

The wider impacts of food choices

Summary of policies

- To help reduce food waste for people and communities, we will work with Zero Waste Scotland to guide long-term work on household food waste reduction behaviour change by 2026/27, focusing on a test of change and improvement approach. This policy will support us in achieving the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) pledge to halve food waste by 2030.
- To improve population health and to tackle health inequalities, the Population Health Framework includes a focus on reducing the harms associated with alcohol consumption and unhealthy diets.
- To reduce alcohol related harm, we will develop a refreshed alcohol and drug strategic plan building on the National Mission on Drugs and the alcohol framework.

Policy/Policy Area	Linked Good Food Nation Outcome(s)	Links to any relevant Documents or Legislation
Circular Economy	Outcome 2 Outcome 5	Scotland's circular economy and waste route map to 2030 - gov.scot Draft circular economy strategy: consultation - gov.scot

		Review of the 2019 Food Waste Reduction Action Plan
Alcohol Harm Prevention	Outcome 3	Alcohol - Alcohol and drugs - gov.scot

Providers and Places

Providers in this context is defined as those who supply food to other people in a variety of settings. This section therefore includes policies on public sector food provision; retail; restaurants; and similar. It also includes any policies that influence what is made available to the public in these settings, such as school food regulations.

Providers have an integral role to play in providing good food to the people of Scotland and are a corner stone of our food environment. They will continue to take active steps to improve their menus to offer healthy and sustainable options.

The Scottish Government is pursuing a range of policies that support and encourage the provision of safe, nutritious, affordable, enjoyable, sustainable, and age-appropriate food in public and private settings.

These policies contribute towards strengthening the healthy eating habits of the people of Scotland by improving the food environment.

Local Food for Everyone in a Good Food Nation

Summary of policies

- The Scottish Government's local food strategy, "Local Food for Everyone: Our Journey" brings together strands of work that support the local food agenda via three pillars: connecting people with food, connecting Scottish producers with buyers and harnessing public sector procurement.
- The Scottish Government provides funding for the Soil Association's Food for Life programme, which aims to increase the amount of healthy, locally sourced food served by local authorities in public kitchens.
- In addition to this programme, funding is given to support a range of community growing organisations who encourage and teach people how to grow their own food as well as providing and improving green spaces where communities can come together to grow food.
- Our continued support for the Scottish Grocers Federation "Go Local" programme is helping to transform convenience stores with dedicated display space for locally produced food and drink.
- By supporting national campaigns run by Scotland Food and Drink, the Scottish Government helps to showcase and raise awareness of the range of Scottish produce and products.
- The Scottish Government recognises that public procurement plays a key role in ensuring everyone has access to healthy, fresh, seasonal food. We are using legislation and policies to maximise the impact procurement can have for public bodies and the Scottish economy.²⁹ For procurement contracts related to food, public bodies are required to provide a statement that outlines how food

²⁹ Public procurement policy and legislation requires public bodies to consider and act on opportunities for small or medium enterprises (SMEs), the third sector, and supported businesses to access contracting opportunities. Domestic legislation and international trade obligations prohibit activities that would discriminate between suppliers on grounds of nationality or locality, or which would result in unequal treatment of suppliers.

provision may improve the health, wellbeing, and education of communities in the authority's area and promote the highest standard of animal welfare.

- The [Procurement Reform \(Scotland\) Act 2014](#), proposes a range of opportunities to increase the quality and provenance of food and drink procured. To promote local and sustainable produce public bodies have the flexibility to:
 - Design menus that include Protected Geographical Indication (PGI) food.
 - Specify food produced according to recognised assurance schemes, e.g. Quality Meat Scotland, Marine Stewardship Council (MSC), Red Tractor, RSPCA, or equivalent bespoke company systems.
 - Specify free range and organic food.
 - Specify requirements based on menu plans that are based on freshness and high nutritional value using food in-season and flexible and frequent delivery times.
 - Divide contracts into small product lots and geographic areas to encourage the active participation of local businesses where it is proportionate to do so.
 - Introduce a facility on some frameworks to enable small manufacturers who do not have national delivery logistics in place to bid on a supply only basis.
- There is a wide variety of legislation, policy guidance, support and resources for Scottish public sector bodies and businesses in relation to public procurement. Links to useful resources have been provided in Annex D and E.

Policy/Policy Area	Linked Good Food Nation Outcome(s)	Links to any relevant Policy Documents or Legislation
Local Food for Everyone	Outcome 1 Outcome 2 Outcome 3 Outcome 4 Outcome 5 Outcome 6	Local Food for Everyone: Our Journey
Public Procurement	Outcome 1 Outcome 2 Outcome 3 Outcome 4	Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014: statutory guidance Sustainable Procurement Tools
Food for Life	Outcome 1 Outcome 2 Outcome 3 Outcome 4	Food For Life Scotland

Prioritising Good Food in the Public Sector

Summary of policies

- To ensure that the people of Scotland have access to balanced and nutritionally appropriate food in Scottish public institutions and to support and promote healthy diets and eating habits the Scottish Government seeks to ensure good nutritional care in all care settings. This includes hospitals and care homes. This nutritional care is delivered through the Health and Social Care Standards, which emphasise the importance of healthy meals and snacks, including fresh fruit and vegetables and choice based on personal preferences and cultural and dietary needs, and beliefs. The Food in Hospitals Guidance provides the specification for food and fluids provided in Hospitals.
- To support the healthy growth and development of our children and young people and to promote healthy habit setting, all food and drink served in schools must meet the standards set out in the school food and drink Regulations.

Policy/Policy Area	Linked Good Food Nation Outcome(s)	Links to any relevant Policy Documents or Legislation
Food and Drink in Schools	Outcome 1 Outcome 3 Outcome 5	Education (Scotland) Act 1980 The Nutritional Requirements for Food and Drink in Schools (Scotland) Regulations 2020 Healthy eating in schools: guidance 2020 Better eating, better learning: a new context for school food Schools Health Promotion and Nutrition Act 2007
Food and Drink for sale in Hospitals and Local Authority sites	Outcome 1 Outcome 3	NHS Property Transaction Handbook – lease / licence for food and / or beverage purposes Eating Out Eating Well Framework Population Health Framework
Food and Drink for patients in Hospitals and Social Care	Outcome 1 Outcome 3	Food in Hospitals – National Catering and Nutrition Specification for Food and Fluid Provision in Hospitals in Scotland My Health, My Care, My Home - healthcare framework for adults living in care homes Health and Social Care Standards: my support, my life

Good Food Out of the Home: eating out and purchasing food

Summary of policies

- To encourage and help food outlets to provide healthier options to customers eating out of the home to support achievement of the Scottish Dietary Goals via the Population Health Framework, which is supported by actions contained within the Diet and Healthy Weight Implementation Plan. These will improve the food environment by progressing actions on the provision of nutrition information to consumers, including a code of practice for Children’s Menus.
- To encourage retail businesses to demonstrate a commitment to Fair Work principles by requiring public sector grant recipients to pay their workers at least the real Living Wage and provide appropriate channels for effective voice. Fair Work First has been applied to over £2.6 billion worth of public sector grants, between July 2023 and March 2024; and £3.42 billion between April 2024 and March 2025.
- To support implementation of the National Planning Framework 4 approach to non-retail outlets: development proposals for non-retail uses will not be supported if further provisions of these services will undermine the character of amenity of an area or the health and wellbeing of communities, particularly in disadvantaged areas. These uses include hot food takeaways, including permanently sited vans.
- To legislate to restrict the promotion of food and drink that is high in fat, sugar or salt where they are sold to the public. This policy aims to reduce the public health harms associated with the excess consumption of calories, salt, sugar and fat.
- To promote Scotland’s high-quality food and drink as part of our tourism and hospitality offer by providing funding to Scotland Food and Drink.

Policy/Policy Area	Linked Good Food Nation Outcome(s)	Links to any relevant Policy Documents or Legislation
Retail Policy	Outcome 4	Getting the Right Change – retail strategy for Scotland National Planning Framework 4 - Policy 27c Restricting promotions of food and drink high in fat, sugar or salt: consultation analysis Restricting promotion of food and drink high in fat, sugar or salt: consultation analysis – SG response The Food (Promotion and Placement)(Scotland) Regulations 2025

Diet and Healthy Weight – Out of Home Action Plan	Outcome 3 Outcome 5	Population Health Framework Eat Well, Your Way Food Standards Scotland Out of home sector - mandatory calorie labelling: consultation National Planning Framework 4
Tourism Fair Work First	Outcome 4 Outcome 5 Outcome 6	Scotland Outlook 2030 Responsible tourism for a sustainable future Fair Work First: guidance - March 2023 - gov.scot

Reducing Waste in a Good Food Nation

Summary of policies

- To help reduce food waste by providers, we will work with stakeholders to help develop effective options to implement mandatory public reporting of food waste and surplus by businesses, using the powers provided in Section 22 of the Circular Economy (Scotland) Act 2024. Details will be set out in secondary legislation.
- In addition to legislative tools, we will support WRAP (Waste and Resources Action Programme) UK’s Food and Drink Pact and work with other partners to encourage businesses to take voluntary action to tackle food waste, promoting sustainable approaches to sectors across the food and drink industry.
- These actions will support us in achieving the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) pledge to halve food waste by 2030.

Policy/Policy Area	Linked Good Food Nation Outcome(s)	Links to any relevant Policy Documents or Legislation
Circular Economy	Outcome 2 Outcome 4	Circular Economy (Scotland) Act 2024 Scotland's circular economy and waste route map to 2030 - gov.scot Draft circular economy strategy: consultation - gov.scot Review of the 2019 Food Waste Reduction Action Plan

Farmers, Food Producers and Processors

The Farmers, Food Producers and Processors section contains policies that are directed at those who grow, rear, catch, or harvest food, as well as those who manufacture and process food stuffs.

We have a range of transformative programmes under way that will inherently change how we produce and process food in Scotland: we are on a pathway to make all our food production activities on land and sea more sustainable. These policies recognise the important role producers and processors can play in food system transformation.

High-quality, nutritious food which is locally and sustainably produced is key to our wellbeing – in economic, environmental, social and health terms. In a Good Food Nation, producers and processors will take an active role in contributing to a sustainable food system. Their choices will have a positive to neutral impact on the environment and biodiversity. Their actions will help to mitigate climate change and they will have adapted to any existing and future changes. Their produce will form an important part of food consumed across Scotland and it will be easy to find Scottish produce in restaurants, canteens and shops. Scottish products will continue to have an international reputation for excellence and quality. Scottish producers will be visible in their communities and provide welcoming places of employment. Jobs in the Scottish food and drink production sectors will operate to fair work standards.

The Land

Summary of policies

- To transform support for farming and food production in Scotland by using Agriculture and Rural Communities (Scotland) Act 2024 powers to introduce a four-tier support framework that delivers our Vision for Agriculture to position Scotland as a global leader in sustainable and regenerative agriculture. The Act requires the Scottish Ministers to publish a Code of Practice on Sustainable and Regenerative Agriculture and a Rural Support Plan. This plan must have regard to the Outcomes in the national Good Food Nation Plan.
- To set out our policies and proposals in the next Climate Change Plan for 2026-2040 on how our agriculture sector will continue to play its part in meeting our ambitious net zero national target. They will ensure farming in Scotland continues sustainably into the future and delivering for our Vision for Agriculture to become a global leader in sustainable and regenerative agriculture while producing high-quality nutritious food for the nation.
- To help farmers undertake actions to mitigate and adapt to climate change and restore nature, as set out in the Agricultural Reform Route Map. The Agri-Environment Climate Scheme (AECS) is expected to continue until 2026 to deliver elements of Elective support ahead of the launch of Tier 3 in 2027.
- Through AECS and the future support framework, we are continuing to provide financial support to farmers and crofters who wish to start or continue to manage their land under organic standards. We will also, in conjunction with Scotland Food and Drink, implement an Organic Action Plan to encourage sustainable expansion of the organic market in Scotland. All these actions support our commitment to seek to double the amount of land used for organic farming in Scotland by end of this parliamentary term (2026).

- Through the Fruit and Vegetables Aid Scheme we continue to offer financial support to collaborative groups of growers, recognised as producer organisations. The Fruit and Vegetables Aid Scheme strengthens Scottish production, supports the sector to grow sustainable, nutritious and high-quality produce and helps growers in reaching markets collectively. It promotes climate-friendly practices, helps sustain rural jobs and contributes to growth in the sector via targeted funding for investment and research and development.
- To continue to support and encourage crofting and small-scale agriculture, in line with the National Development Plan for Crofting, through the Crofting Agricultural Grant Scheme, which aids and develops agricultural production on croft businesses, and the Croft House Grant which provides assistance towards crofter housing, enabling crofters to live on and work their croft, whilst generating economic activity in our rural and island areas. Through crofting law reform, we are looking to streamline administrative processes; enable active crofting; introduce immediate positive outcomes for crofters and their communities; and enable the Commission to better regulate the crofting system.
- To have a support framework that delivers high-quality food production, climate mitigation and adaptation, flood resilience and nature restoration in line with the Climate Change plan, the Scottish National Adaptation Plan, and the National Flood Resilience Strategy. To also support the achievement of the existing legally binding annual emissions reduction targets to achieve net zero emissions by 2045.
- The support framework will also help to achieve the high-level goals of our Strategic Framework for biodiversity to be nature positive, halting biodiversity loss by 2030 and regenerating biodiversity by 2045, including, specifically, that:
 - Farmland practices will have resulted in a substantial regeneration in biodiversity, ecosystem and soil health and significantly reduced carbon emissions while sustaining high quality food production.
 - Management of deer ranges, grouse moors and upland agriculture will contribute to the regeneration of biodiversity in upland areas.
- Activities in these areas will also help us to achieve our 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.
- To support communities to adapt to coastal change we published guidance for Local Authorities on the development of Coastal Change Adaptation Plans; the Coastal Change Adaptation Fund has provided almost £12 million in funding to support this work.
- To manage water resources during periods of prolonged dry weather, SEPA implements Scotland's National Water Scarcity Plan working closely with water abstractors to monitor the situation and support those affected.

Supporting new entrants and smaller producers

Summary of Policies

- To provide support for the next generation of rural workers in Scotland, we are offering the Farm Advisory Service Mentoring Programme, the Land Based Pre-apprenticeship Programme (announced May 2025, £1.8 million support over 3

years, offering just under 400 graduate places) and the Next Generation Practical Training Fund which can provide bespoke, tailored training (announced in May 2025, £900,000 over the next 3 year, anticipating 2,000 applicants).

- We are also prioritising capital funding through the Future Farming Investment Scheme (£14 million).
- The Scottish Land Matching Service helps to broker joint-ventures. In addition, the Farming Opportunities for New Entrants Group is helping to push the need for authorities holding public land to provide more opportunities for new entrants (8000 hectares to date).
- To promote better use of Scotland’s agricultural land, we will work with the Tenant Farming Commissioner, whose functions are set out in the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2016, to encourage prosperous relationships between tenants and landlords throughout Scotland’s farming sector.
- The Small Producer Pilot Fund and provisions in Part 2 of the Land Reform (Scotland) Bill to modernise small landholding legislation will provide more opportunities for smaller producers and new entrants to be enabled to produce more food for their communities and the market.
- Farmers and growers need a diverse range of pest and disease management solutions to support sustainable food production. The UK Pesticides National Action Plan sets out our strategy for managing pesticide use and minimising risk associated with pesticide use. It aims to promote the sustainable use of pesticides to minimise impacts on the environment and human health, whilst managing pests and pesticide resistance effectively and ensuring farmers have the tools they need for food production. The Pesticides National Action Plan also introduces a domestic reduction target for pesticides in the UK. The target is based on the UK Pesticide Load Indicator, which combines data on pesticide usage with information on pesticide properties (hazard and environmental behaviour) to illustrate and track trends in the potential pressure that pesticides are placing on the environment. This will contribute to the global target to reduce the overall risk from pesticides by at least half by 2030, as set out in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

Policy/Policy Area	Linked Good Food Nation Outcome(s)	Links to any relevant Documents or Legislation
Agricultural Policy	Outcome 1 Outcome 2 Outcome 4 Outcome 6	Vision for Agriculture Agriculture and Rural Communities (Scotland) Act 2024 Agricultural Reform Route Map A National Test Programme to start Transforming Agriculture in Scotland Whole Farm Plan Preparing for Sustainable Farming Bioenergy Draft Policy Statement consultation Scotland’s Farm Advisory Service Agri-Environment Climate Scheme

		Fruit and Vegetables Aid Scheme
Climate Change and Agriculture	Outcome 1 Outcome 2 Outcome 6	Securing a green recovery on a path to net zero: climate change plan 2018–2032 - update Climate Change Plan Update: monitoring report 2024 Scotland's Climate Change Plan – 2026-2040 - gov.scot 3rd Scottish National Adaptation Plan (SNAP3) Objective B2
Organics	Outcome 2 Outcome 4	A Fairer, Greener Scotland: Programme for Government 2021-22
Crofting	Outcome 2 Outcome 4	Crofting: national development plan
Venison Sector	Outcome 2 Outcome 4 Outcome 6	Beyond the Glen – A strategy for the Scottish Venison Sector to 2030
Coastal Change, water scarcity and flooding	Outcome 2	Dynamic Coast Water Scarcity – Scottish Environment Protection Agency Scotland's National Water Scarcity Plan National Flood Resilience Strategy
New Entrants to Farming	Outcome 2 Outcome 4 Outcome 5 Outcome 6	New Entrants to Farming
Pesticides	Outcome 2 Outcome 4 Outcome 6	UK Pesticides National Action Plan 2025 - GOV.UK

The Seas

Summary of policies

- To support our fisheries and seafood sectors which are critical to our coastal and island communities and our national economy, we will continue to implement our Fisheries Management Strategy, which contains a 12 point action plan intended to deliver sustainable and responsible fisheries management in Scotland. The Strategy, along with Fisheries Management Plans (FMPs) will support the wider delivery of the Joint Fisheries Statement and the objectives within the UK Fisheries Act 2020. The UK administrations are developing [43 FMPs](#) between them. The Scottish Government is taking forward 21 of them, with a statutory deadline of 31 December 2026.

- To progress the achievement of the Scottish Government’s long-term aspirations for the finfish, shellfish and seaweed farming sectors, and the wider aquaculture supply chain, as set out in the Vision for Sustainable Aquaculture. The Vision outlines high level aims as to how the sector is recognised by 2045 and sets out a range of outcomes which would support delivery of those aims.
- To improve the sustainability and resilience of our inshore fisheries, we will progress our Inshore Fisheries Management Improvement (IFMI) Programme. This is a 2025/2026 Programme for Government Commitment which seeks to develop a more agile approach to inshore fisheries management with co-management and communities at its heart.

Policy/Policy Area	Linked Good Food Nation Outcome(s)	Links to any relevant Documents or Legislation
Fisheries Management Strategy	Outcome 1 Outcome 2 Outcome 4 Outcome 6	Future fisheries: management strategy - 2020 to 2030 Fisheries management strategy 2020 to 2030: delivery plan Fisheries management strategy 2020 to 2023: delivery plan (updated 2025)
Seafood Trade	Outcome 2 Outcome 4 Outcome 6	Seafood strategy Marine Fund Scotland
Sustainable Aquaculture	Outcome 1 Outcome 2 Outcome 4 Outcome 6	Vision for Sustainable Aquaculture
Inshore Fisheries Management Improvement Programme	Outcome 2 Outcome 4 Outcome 6	Inshore Fisheries Management Improvement: call for evidence analysis report

Animal Welfare and Plant Health

Summary of policies

- To maintain and increase our high standards of animal welfare by:
 - Consulting on the phasing out of farrowing crates for pigs;
 - Exploring options for how to best to set welfare standards for farmed fish and publishing guidance on welfare at time of killing in salmon farming;
 - Analysing and publishing the results of the consultation to phase out cages for laying hens;
 - Commissioning the Scottish Animal Welfare Commission (SAWC) to explore the feasibility of developing indicators of animal welfare for farmed animals;
 - Continuing to support awareness of higher welfare methods of castration and tail docking of lambs;

- Updating regulations on the lifting and carrying of poultry following the recent consultation on this.
- Safeguarding plant health in Scotland to enhance and protect Scotland’s rural economy and natural environment. To do this, the new Scottish Plant Health Strategy 2024-2029 was published in November 2024 setting out the Scottish Government’s 5-year plan to improve plant health in Scotland by:
 - Continuing to invest in plant health via Scottish Government Rural and Environmental Science and Analytical Services (RESAS) Division’s Strategic Research Programme and Plant Health Centre, to assess the opportunities to utilise research, innovation and technology to fill knowledge gaps and strengthen biosecurity;
 - Improving engagement with stakeholders, including the creation of a Scottish Plant Health Standing Committee with government, industry, and NGOs by summer 2025 to promote best practice and to grow and utilise plant health networks across sectors and communities to improve plant health awareness, buy-in, and resilience;
 - Promoting responsible plant sourcing, including stakeholder initiatives such as the Plant Health Certification Scheme, and improving biosecure supply chains across industry sectors by exploring procurement options associated with Scottish Government funded projects.

Policy/Policy Area	Linked Good Food Nation Outcome(s)	Links to any relevant Documents or Legislation
Animal Welfare	Outcome 2 Outcome 6	Animal health and welfare strategy
Plant Health	Outcome 2 Outcome 4 Outcome 6	Scottish Plant Health Strategy 2024-2029 .pdf Plant biosecurity strategy for Great Britain (2023 to 2028)

Supporting Scotland’s Food and Drink Industry

Summary of policies

- To support and champion Scotland’s food and drink industry by providing funding to and working with the Scotland Food & Drink Partnership, a unique partnership of industry and the public sector which nurtures, supports and champions the people and products of Scotland’s food and drink industry. Our long-standing support for this partnership helps to ensure that food and drink producers have the resilience, capability and capacity to put food on shelves for consumers.
- Our support for ‘Sustaining Scotland. Supplying the World’, the industry led food and drink strategy, is building the foundations for sustainable growth and driving demand for growth. It sets out a ten year plan to make Scotland the best place in the world to own, operate, and work for a food and drink business with a clear mission for Scotland to be renowned as a world leader in sustainable production

and responsible growth, where resilient businesses across the entire supply chain can flourish and prosper.

- To provide specific support to Scottish Development International (SDI) to deliver the work of the Scotland Food & Drink Export Plan. This plan helps to enhance the reputation of our natural larder, and to sustain and create markets for Scottish produce abroad.
- To provide funding for the Food and Drink Federation Scotland to support their Reformulation for Health Programme. The programme works with Scottish manufacturers to encourage them to reformulate their products to make them healthier.

Policy/Policy Area	Linked Good Food Nation Outcome(s)	Links to any relevant Documents or Legislation
Food and Drink Industry Support	Outcome 4 Outcome 6	Sustaining Scotland. Supplying the World. A strategy for Scotland's food and drink industry.

Ensuring the implementation of policies is informed by the views of the food business sector

The views of the food business sector on the implementation of both the policies set out in this Plan and any relevant policy to be included in future plans will be taken into account through a variety of means. There will be regular engagement with Scotland Food & Drink, the Food and Drink Federation Scotland, and working groups such as the Food Sector Resilience Group, the Public Sector Food Forum and the Procurement Supply Group, where stakeholders will have the opportunity to provide their views on policies and policy implementation, amongst other things. These regular discussions will play an important role in gathering the views of the food business sector on an ongoing basis. In addition, the sector will be invited, as required, to respond to consultations on the formulation of individual policies. When consulting on individual policies we will encourage policy teams, where not already the case, to include questions seeking the views of the food business sector on effective policy implementation. This range of engagement with the food business sector will ensure their views are taken into account.

Strategic and Overarching Policies

This section covers the wider strategic programmes and policies that were discussed in Part Two of the Plan, on [page 21](#).

Policy/Policy Area	Linked Good Food Nation Outcome(s)	Links to any relevant Documents or Legislation
Human Rights ³⁰	Outcome 1 Outcome 2 Outcome 3 Outcome 4 Outcome 5 Outcome 6	Equality, opportunity, community: New leadership - A fresh start Human Rights Bill for Scotland: discussion paper - gov.scot Progressing the human rights of children in Scotland: action plan 2021 to 2024 Our international obligations - Human rights - gov.scot International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights OHCHR Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women OHCHR Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities OHCHR Convention on the Rights of the Child OHCHR
Child Poverty	Outcome 1 Outcome 3	Supporting documents - Best Start, Bright Futures: tackling child poverty delivery plan 2022 to 2026 - gov.scot Getting it right for every child (GIRFEC)
Climate Change; Biodiversity; the Road to Net Zero; Just Transition	Outcome 1 Outcome 2 Outcome 4 Outcome 6	Scotland's Climate Change Plan – 2026-2040 - gov.scot Home Net Zero Nation Climate change - gov.scot Scotland's Strategic Framework for biodiversity The Environment Strategy for Scotland: vision and outcomes Just Transition Commission Just Transition - A Fairer, Greener Scotland: Scottish Government response

³⁰ Only the international instruments listed at Section 5(2) of the Good Food Nation (Scotland) Act 2022 are included in this table.

Land Reform	Outcome 1 Outcome 2 Outcome 4 Outcome 5	Scottish Land Rights and Responsibilities Statement Scottish Land Rights and Responsibilities Statement – Advisory Notes
Vision for Agriculture	Outcome 1 Outcome 2 Outcome 3 Outcome 4 Outcome 5 Outcome 6	Statement on Vision for Agriculture
Food safety, standards and nutrition	Outcome 1 Outcome 3	Food (Scotland) Act 2015 Healthy, Safe, Sustainable: Driving Scotland's Food Future. Food Standards Scotland Strategy 2021-26 Scottish dietary goals: March 2016 - gov.scot
National Planning Framework (NPF4)	Outcome 1 Outcome 2 Outcome 3 Outcome 4 Outcome 5	National Planning Framework 4 Planning circular 1/2022: Local Place Plans Local development planning guidance Local development planning - regulations and guidance: consultation Place Standard Tool
National Marine Plan	Outcome 2 Outcome 4	Scotland's National Marine Plan - gov.scot
Wellbeing Economy	Outcome 2 Outcome 4 Outcome 5	Scotland's wellbeing economy: July 2025 - gov.scot
Community Wealth Building	Outcome 1 Outcome 2 Outcome 4 Outcome 5	Programme for Government 2024-25: Serving Scotland Scotland's National Strategy for Economic Transformation Covid Recovery Strategy: for a fairer future Community Wealth Building Consultation
Fair Work	Outcome 4	Fair Work action plan: becoming a leading Fair Work nation by 2025 Fair Work Oversight Group - gov.scot Fair Work First: guidance - March 2023 - gov.scot
Food Security	Outcome 1 Outcome 4 Outcome 6	Safeguarding food security - gov.scot

Population Health Framework	Outcome 3	Population Health Framework
Early Child Development Transformational Change Programme	Outcome 1 Outcome 3 Outcome 5	Early child development transformational change programme - gov.scot

Conclusion

This, the first national Good Food Nation Plan, is a big step on our journey to becoming a Good Food Nation. It is underpinned by our world leading Good Food Nation (Scotland) Act 2022, which provides the framework for a new way of working across the whole of the Scottish Government.

In drafting this first national Plan we have set out to identify a shared vision of what a Good Food Nation looks like, through consultation with the people of Scotland, policy colleagues across the Scottish Government and through parliamentary scrutiny. The six Good Food Nation Outcomes that underpin this Plan are built on this shared understanding and will be the foundation for future food policy developed by the Scottish Government.

We have also identified the problems that currently exist within our food system, and highlighted key areas of inequalities that are important to keep in mind when developing food policy.

This Plan also brings together, for the first time, a comprehensive assessment of the ongoing action being taken in relation to food policy across the Scottish Government. The task of drawing this wide-ranging information together in one place should not be underestimated. It has required extensive cross-portfolio engagement and has resulted in increased knowledge and awareness of Good Food Nation.

This understanding of Scottish Government activity alongside the development of a comprehensive indicator framework helps us to establish the baseline of our activity and of our Scottish food system. This is what we will assess future activity and monitor progress against.

We recognise that becoming a Good Food Nation will be a long journey and achievement may not always follow a straight path. However, this national Plan sets out the foundations for a new way of doing things, it is not without challenges; changing deeply embedded ways of working for a novel approach will mean adopting a different mindset when developing food policy and may not always be straightforward.

We are excited about the opportunities that progressing the Good Food Nation vision will bring for people and communities in Scotland. The national Plan, alongside the first generation of relevant authority plans, will set the scene for food system transformation in Scotland. There is much to learn and the independent advice and recommendations of the Scottish Food Commission will be of huge value as we progress this new way of working.

By monitoring progress through our comprehensive indicator framework and embedding systems thinking into policy development, we aim to tackle the complex, cross-cutting challenges within Scotland's food system. This approach will enable us to create a fairer, healthier, and more sustainable food future for everyone in Scotland and build on the valuable work that has already been started by third sector, community bodies and other organisations.

The national Plan, alongside the first generation of relevant authority plans, sets the scene for food system transformation. Together, we can ensure that we are all working together to achieve our aim of Scotland becoming a Good Food Nation.

Annex A

Legislative Requirements

1. Content

Section 1(3) of the Act contains specific requirements about what this Plan must include:

- (a) the main outcomes in relation to food-related issues which the Scottish Ministers want to be achieved in relation to Scotland

The Outcomes are outlined in Part One of this Plan.

- (b) indicators or other measures by which progress in achieving the outcomes may be assessed

Indicators and other measures (targets) are outlined in Part Three of this Plan.

- (c) the policies which the Scottish Ministers intend to pursue in order to secure the achievement of the outcomes.

Policies are outlined in Part Four of this Plan.

2. Requirement to be informed by the views of the food business sector

Section 1(4) of the Act sets out a requirement that:

The national good food nation plan must also set out the Scottish Ministers' plans for ensuring that the implementation of the policies mentioned in subsection (3)(c) is informed by the views of the food business sector.

On page 66 we set out how this has been done.

3. Requirement to have regard to the scope for food-related issues to affect outcomes in relation to specific subject areas

Section 1(6) of the Act provides:

In determining the content of the national good food nation plan so far as required by subsection (3), the Scottish Ministers must have regard to the scope for food-related issues to affect outcomes in relation to, among other things—

- (a) social and economic wellbeing,
- (b) the environment, in particular in relation to—
 - (i) climate change, and
 - (ii) wildlife and the natural environment,
- (c) health and physical and mental wellbeing (including in particular through the provision of health and social care services),
- (d) economic development,
- (e) animal welfare,
- (f) education, and
- (g) child poverty.

4. Principles

Section 2 of the Act outlines a set of principles that the Scottish Ministers must have regard to in the preparation of the plan. These are reflected in our Outcomes in Part One of the Plan and the policies that have been outlined in Part Four of the Plan.

Section 2 - In preparing the national good food nation plan, the Scottish Ministers must have regard to—

- (a) the fact that each part of the food system and supply chain plays an important role in the provision of food,
- (b) the role of a sustainable food system and supply chain in contributing to mitigation of climate change, halting and reversing of loss of biodiversity and improvement in animal welfare,
- (c) the ability of high-quality, nutritious and culturally appropriate food to improve the health and physical and mental wellbeing of people,
- (d) the fact that adequate food is a human right (as part of the right to an adequate standard of living set out in Article 11 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights) and essential to the realisation of other human rights,
- (e) the importance of the food business sector—
 - (i) continuing to be a thriving part of the Scottish economy,
 - (ii) having resilient supply chains,
 - (iii) operating with fair work standards, and
 - (iv) in contributing to resilient local economies across Scotland.

5. International Instruments

The Act specifies a set of international instruments the Scottish Ministers must have regard to in the preparation of the plan. Table 1 in Part One of this Plan highlights how the Outcomes reflect and relate to relevant international instruments.

Section 5 Preparation of plan: consideration of international instruments

- (1) In preparing the national good food nation plan, the Scottish Ministers must have regard to the international instruments listed in subsection (2).
- (2) Those instruments are—
 - (a) Article 11 (so far as it concerns adequate food) of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,
 - (b) Article 24(2)(c) (so far as it concerns the provision of adequate nutritious foods) of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child,
 - (c) Articles 27(1) and (3) (so far as they concern nutrition) of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child,
 - (d) Article 12(2) (so far as it as concerns adequate nutrition during pregnancy and lactation) of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.

6. Have regard – how this was embedded in the development of the Plan

As set out above the Act sets out the need to have regard to the matters, principles and international instruments in sections 1(6), 2 and 5. Regard was had to these throughout the process of drafting the Plan by a range of means including:

- Embedding the concepts set out in these sections of the Act from the outset. This was done by using the matters and principles as the basis for drafting the Outcomes and cross checking that the specified provisions within the international instruments were reflected across the Outcomes.
- Ensuring that the need to have regard to these sections was clear to policy colleagues, ministers and stakeholders throughout the process of drafting the Plan e.g. in any updates given to these groups these requirements and how they linked to the Outcomes were clearly set out.
- Setting out these ‘have regard’ requirements in the consultation document which described how the Outcomes were drafted with regard to these provisions in the Act and used as the basis for considering the food system as a whole.
- Framing the discussion around the Plan in the workshops that were part of the public consultation by making clear the need to have regard to these provisions.
- Undertaking a process of cross checking at key points in the drafting process to ensure these concepts were captured in the text e.g. for the consultation document, when updating the text on the basis of comments received from the public consultation and when finalising the document for ministerial approval.

It is evident that the matters, principles and international instruments which the Scottish Ministers must have regard to, have clearly influenced, and been incorporated within the wording of the Outcomes. Even where the exact terminology in the provisions has not been used, the spirit of and concepts within the provisions have been suitably captured e.g., the wording “culturally appropriate” (section 2(c) of the Act) is not explicitly used but this concept has been captured by the inclusion of the words “everyone” and “reliable and dignified access” in Outcome 1. Setting out tables in the Plan that indicate how these provisions link to the Outcomes to make clear regard has been had and the concepts are embedded within the text of the Plan. Table 1 (page 15) sets out which of the international instruments, provided for by section 5 of the Act, are linked to each Outcome. Table 2 (page 74) demonstrates which of the matters and principles, that the Scottish Ministers are required to have regard to by virtue of sections 1(6) and 2 of the Act, are reflected in and linked to each one of the Outcomes.

The indicators (or other measures) to measure progress and the policies that will be pursued in order to secure the achievement of the outcomes are intrinsically linked to the six Outcomes set out in the Plan, so the matters, principles and international instruments are also reflected in those parts of the Plan.

Table 2 below illustrates how the specified matters and principles have been taken into account in the development of the six Good Food Nation Outcomes.

<p>Outcome</p>	<p>Link to section 1(6) of the Good Food Nation (Scotland) Act 2022 <i>“In determining the content of the Plan [...] the Scottish Ministers must have regard to the scope for food-related issues to affect outcomes in relation to specified subject matters listed in section 1(6) of the Act”</i></p>	<p>Link to section 2 of the Good Food Nation (Scotland) Act 2022 <i>“In preparing the Plan the Scottish Ministers must have regard to the principles specified in section 2 of the Act”</i></p>
<p>Outcome 1: The food environment in Scotland enables people to eat well. Everyone benefits from reliable and dignified access to safe, nutritious, affordable, enjoyable, sustainable and age-appropriate food.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 1(6)(a) social and economic wellbeing • Section 1(6)(c) health and physical and mental wellbeing (including in particular through the provision of health and social care services) • Section 1(6)(g) child poverty 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 2(a) the fact that each part of the food system and supply chain plays an important role in the provision of food • Section 2(c) the ability of high-quality, nutritious and culturally appropriate food to improve the health and physical and mental wellbeing of people • Section 2(d) the fact that adequate food is a human right (as part of the right to an adequate standard of living set out in Article 11 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights) and essential to the realisation of other human rights
<p>Outcome 2: Scotland’s food system is sustainable and contributes to a flourishing natural environment on our land and in our waters. It supports our net zero and climate adaptation ambitions and plays an important role in protecting and improving animal health and welfare, and in restoring and regenerating biodiversity.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 1(6)(b) the environment, including in particular in relation to— (i) climate change, and (ii) wildlife and the natural environment • Section 1(6)(e) animal welfare 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 2(a) the fact that each part of the food system and supply chain plays an important role in the provision of food • Section 2(b) the role of a sustainable food system and supply chain in contributing to mitigation of climate change, halting and reversing of loss of biodiversity and improvement in animal welfare

<p>Outcome 3: Scotland's food environment and wider food system enables and promotes a physically and mentally healthy population. This leads to the prevention of, and a reduction in, diet-related conditions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 1(6)(c) health and physical and mental wellbeing (including in particular through the provision of health and social care services) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 2(c) the ability of high- quality, nutritious and culturally appropriate food to improve the health and physical and mental wellbeing of people • Section 2(d) the fact that adequate food is a human right (as part of the right to an adequate standard of living set out in Article 11 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights) and essential to the realisation of other human rights
<p>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 throughout food supply chains.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 1(6)(a) social and economic wellbeing • Section 1(6)(d) economic development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 2(a) the fact that each part of the food system and supply chain plays an important role in the provision of food • Section 2(e) the importance of the food business sector— <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) continuing to be a thriving part of the Scottish economy, (ii) having resilient supply chains, (iii) operating with fair work standards, and (iv) in contributing to resilient local economies across Scotland.
<p>Outcome 5: People and communities are empowered to participate in, and shape, their food system. Scotland has a thriving food culture with a population who are educated about good and sustainable food.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 1(6)(b) the environment, including in particular in relation to— <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) climate change, and (ii) wildlife and the natural environment • Section 1(6)(f) education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 2(a) the fact that each part of the food system and supply chain plays an important role in the provision of food • Section 2(b) the role of a sustainable food system and supply chain in contributing to mitigation of climate change, halting and reversing of loss of biodiversity and improvement in animal welfare

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 2(c) the ability of high- quality, nutritious and culturally appropriate food to improve the health and physical and mental wellbeing of people
<p>Outcome 6: Decisions we make in Scotland contribute positively to local and global food systems transformation. Scotland actively engages in learning and exchanging knowledge and best practice internationally.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 1(6)(a) social and economic wellbeing • Section 1(6)(d) economic development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 2(a) the fact that each part of the food system and supply chain plays an important role in the provision of food

Annex B

Glossary

Adaptation – Adaptation is an ongoing process of adjustments taken in response to observed and future climate change impacts. It involves preparing for risks posed by climate hazards such as rising sea-levels and temperatures and capturing new opportunities our changing climate may bring (such as opportunities to grow new crops).

Biodiversity – the variability among living organisms within terrestrial, marine and aquatic ecosystems, and the ecological complexes they are part of. This includes diversity within species, between species, and across ecosystems.

Brexit – the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union.

Climate change – a change of climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods.

Culturally acceptable – food that aligns with the cultural traditions, dietary habits, and values of a specific community or group, ensuring that food aid and food systems are sensitive to diverse cultural preferences and practices.

Diet-related conditions – health conditions that are influenced or caused by an individual's dietary behaviours. These conditions can arise due to either inadequate or excessive consumption of certain nutrients. Common diet-related conditions include: obesity, type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, hypertension, certain types of cancer, nutrient deficiencies, and digestive disorders.

Fair Work – secure employment with fair pay and conditions, where workers are heard and represented, treated with respect and have opportunities to progress.

Food environment – the foods available to people in their surroundings as they go about their everyday lives and the nutritional quality, safety, price, convenience, labelling, and promotion of these foods.

Food insecurity – the full range of experiences from worry regarding ability to afford food, through to compromising on quality and quantity of food and experiencing hunger.

Food policy – an umbrella term for all the policies related to the production, processing, distribution, purchase, consumption, and disposal of a nation's foodstuffs.

Food Security – Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.

Food System – all the elements (environment, people, inputs, processes, infrastructures, institutions, etc.) and activities that relate to the production, processing, distribution, preparation and consumption of food, and the outputs of these activities, including socio-economic and environmental outcomes.

Just Transition – the process that must be undertaken in partnership with those impacted by the transition to net zero, supporting a net zero and climate resilient economy in a way that delivers fairness and tackles inequality and injustice.

National Planning Framework (NPF4) – The Scottish Government’s national spatial strategy for Scotland. It sets out our spatial principles, regional priorities, national developments and national planning policy. It should be read and applied as a whole and replaces NPF3.

Officials – Scottish Government civil servants, working on behalf of the Scottish Ministers, who are directly involved in policy development and implementation.

Reformulation – making changes to an existing recipe to boost the health profile of the product.

Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) – The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation is a relative measure of deprivation across 6,976 small areas (called data zones) and is the Scottish Government’s standard approach to identify areas of multiple deprivation in Scotland.

Sustainable Food System – According to the Food and Agriculture Organisation 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.”

Systems Thinking – Systems thinking is a framework for seeing the interconnections in a system and a discipline for seeing and understanding the whole system; the ‘structures’ that underlie complex situations.

Quintiles – Quintiles split the SIMD data zones into 5 groups, each containing 20% of Scotland’s data zones.

Annex C

List of Targets and Commitments

- 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
- Increase levels of adult healthy weight
- Reduce drop-off in breastfeeding rates at the 6 to 8 week point by 10% by 2031
- Reduce the number of households facing moderate to severe food insecurity
- Reduce the reported number of households accessing emergency food provision
- Halve food waste by 2030
- 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: net zero emissions by 2045

Other Commitments/Measures

The following are ongoing commitments

- The 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
- The Scottish Government supports the food and drink sector by providing funding for 'Sustaining Scotland. Supplying the World. A Strategy for Scotland's Food and Drink Industry.'

Annex D

Public Procurement Legislation, Policy Guidance and Support for Scottish Public Sector Bodies

Legislation

- [The Procurement Reform \(Scotland\) Act 2014](#)
 - working alongside the [Public Contracts \(Scotland\) Regulations 2015](#) and the [Procurement \(Scotland\) Regulations 2016](#) to provide a national legislative framework for public procurement in Scotland.

Policy Guidance and Support

- [The Procurement Reform \(Scotland\) Act 2014 Statutory Guidance](#)
 - provides advice on what a public body should do to comply with the [Procurement Reform \(Scotland\) Act 2014](#)
- [The Sustainable Procurement Tools](#)
 - one-stop shop for training and guidance for sustainable public procurement in Scotland
 - contains tools, guidance, eLearning resources and case-studies
- [The Procurement Journey](#)
 - a website designed to guide public sector buyers through the procurement process.
- [National Procurement and Commercial Training Framework](#)
 - multi-lot framework for the provision of procurement and sustainable procurement training services

Annex E

Public Sector Procurement Guidance and Resources for Business

- [Public Contracts Scotland \(PCS\)](#)
 - advertising portal for all regulated public sector contracts across Scotland, where businesses can register to receive alerts on the types of opportunities for which they have registered an interest
- [Supplier Development Programme \(SDP\)](#)
 - free training and guidance on how to submit and win public procurement bids
 - free Meet the Buyer events
 - early engagement sessions
- [FindBusinessSupport.gov.scot](#)
 - provides a central hub for general business support from across Scotland's public sector
- [Supplier Journey](#)
 - free, online and easy to access guidance containing information on all aspects of bidding from finding opportunities and preparing bids to lessons learned
 - signposts additional support
 - a contact facility for suppliers to engage directly with the Scottish Government
- [The Sustainable Procurement Tools](#)
 - one-stop shop for training and guidance for sustainable public procurement in Scotland (businesses may also access)
 - contain tools, guidance, eLearning and case-studies
- [Engaging with Public Procurement Guide](#)
 - A guide that provides [general] information on how businesses may engage with public sector procurement
- [Guidance on Public Procurement for SMEs and Third Sector Businesses](#)
 - a summary clarifying the sources of support available, including those mentioned above to help SMEs and third sector engage with the public sector and to better enable them to bid for and win public contracts.



© Crown copyright 2025



This publication is licensed under the terms of the Open Government Licence v3.0 except where otherwise stated. To view this licence, visit nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3 or write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk.

Where we have identified any third party copyright information you will need to obtain permission from the copyright holders concerned.

This publication is available at www.gov.scot

Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at

The Scottish Government
St Andrew's House
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

ISBN: 978-1-80643-261-5 (web only)

Published by The Scottish Government, December 2025

Produced for The Scottish Government by APS Group Scotland, 21 Tennant Street, Edinburgh EH6 5NA
PPDAS1684686 (12/25)

W W W . g o v . s c o t