

National Good Food Nation Plan Consultation

Response from Scotland Food & Drink (Responses in [Blue](#))

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Question 1

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

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

Strongly agree

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

Strongly agree

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

Strongly agree

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

Strongly agree

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

Strongly agree

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

Strongly agree

Question 2

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

We believe the outcomes are essentially correct and rightly ambitious. It is certainly true that, if achieved, they would make a significant positive difference to Scotland. It is also to be welcomed that the Scottish Government has identified the potential for them to change over time, reflecting the evolving food and drink landscape.

As the lead organisation for the Scotland Food & Drink Partnership, we are responsible for coordinating the delivery work of the strategy, Sustaining Scotland; Supplying the World. The delivery work is extensive and links to all outcomes to some degree but particularly 4 and 6 with their focus on quality, our international reputation and ensuring a prosperous and sustainable sector.

We asked the Scotland Food & Drink team, which includes staff involved in Market Development, Business Development, Organic Development, The Knowledge Bank, Programme Management, Communications and more, to share their ideas for possible Good Food Nation outcomes. The list of responses is below. We feel it aligns well with the outcomes proposed, which is positive and suggests they reflect the key priorities for food as it connects with our social, environmental and economic objectives.

- ✓ Access to local, affordable, fresh, quality and nutritious food for all.
- ✓ A healthier nation with fewer diet-related issues.
- ✓ Increased pride in and preference for local food and drink.
- ✓ Expanded sales of Scottish produce across retail and hospitality.
- ✓ Prioritised local production with fair prices for all.
- ✓ The public know about healthy, sustainable eating.
- ✓ The supply chain is fair, innovative and sustainable.
- ✓ Food producers are valued and supported.
- ✓ Scratch cookery skills prioritised in schools.
- ✓ Early education provided about nutrition.
- ✓ Supermarkets focus more on seasonal produce.
- ✓ Local produce helps reduce environmental costs.
- ✓ Reduced use of plastics and hard-to-recycle packaging.
- ✓ Healthy choices and nutrition promoted.
- ✓ The true value of food recognised within a “Wellness Nation”.
- ✓ Nutrition choices in public catering are prioritised.
- ✓ Public procurement is a prime market for producers.
- ✓ Modern cooking education in schools.
- ✓ Recognition, leadership, and investment in food systems transformation for resilience (soil, nature, climate, social, economic).
- ✓ Coherent vision and strategy, joined across all levels of government.
- ✓ Pride in local produce which features prominently on national tables.
- ✓ Healthier eating promoted, with a greater emphasis on fresh produce.
- ✓ Affordable pricing for healthier food products.

Good Food Nation Measures

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

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

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

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

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

Extend current diet and healthy weight commitments:

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

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

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

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

Strengthen household food insecurity commitments:

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

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

Public procurement

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

Animal welfare

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

Outcome 1.

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

Indicators

- Proportion of households experiencing household food insecurity
- Number of pupils registered for free school meals
- Percentage of pupils present at school taking school meals (free or paid for)
- Number of day care settings and children registered to the Scottish Milk and Healthy Snack Scheme
- Proportion of children in Scotland living in: relative poverty; absolute poverty; combined low income and material deprivation, and; persistent poverty (after housing costs)
- Scottish Dietary Goals
- Proportion of public and private sector food businesses implementing the Eating Out, Eating Well framework and code of practice for children's menus
- Number of local authorities that participate in the Food for Life Scotland Programme

Targets/other measures

- Fewer than 10% of children living in relative poverty by 2030
- Fewer than 5% of children living in absolute poverty by 2030
- Fewer than 5% of children living in combined low income and material deprivation by 2030
- Fewer than 5% of children living in persistent poverty by 2030
- Halve childhood obesity by 2030 and significantly reduce associated diet-related inequalities
- Reduce adult diet-related health inequalities
- Reduce the number of households facing moderate to severe food insecurity
- Reduce the reported number of households accessing emergency food provision

Outcome 2.

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

Indicators

- Greenhouse gas emissions produced by the agriculture sector
- Use of nitrogen fertilisers
- Percentage of commercial stocks fished at sustainable levels
- Scottish Dietary Goals

Targets/other measures

- Reduce per capita food waste by 33% by 2025
- Aim to double the amount of farmland managed organically in Scotland by end of this parliamentary term (2026)
- Existing legally binding annual emissions reduction targets including: 75% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 (compared with a 1990 baseline), and net zero emissions by 2045
- Scottish Ministers have international commitments to address biodiversity loss, 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

Outcome 3.

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

Indicators

- Percentage of adults and children with a healthy weight
- Percentage of children at risk of obesity
- Percentage of adults and children consuming recommended 5 portions of fruit and vegetables each day
- Number of local authorities that participate in the Food for Life Scotland Programme
- Fruit and vegetable intake of children aged 2-15
- [Scottish Dietary Goals](#)
- Proportion of public and private sector food businesses implementing the Eating Out, Eating Well framework and code of practice for children's menus
- Number of companies investing in reformulation

Targets/other measures

- Reduce drop off in breastfeeding rates at the 6 to 8 week point by 10% by 2025
- Halve childhood obesity by 2030 and significantly reduce associated diet-related inequalities
- Increase levels of adult healthy weight
- Reduce adult diet-related health inequalities

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.

Indicators

- Number of people employed in the food and drink industry
- Number of people employed in agriculture
- Value of Scottish food and drink exports
- Value added by the Scottish food and drink industry
- Number of registered food and drink enterprises
- Number of registered crofts
- Median weekly full-time earnings across the Scottish food and drink growth sector
- Number of companies investing in reformulation

Targets/other measures

- The Scottish Government supports the food and drink sector by providing funding for [Sustaining Scotland. Supplying the World – The Food and Drink Industry Strategy](#)

Outcome 5.

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

Indicators

- Funding committed to food education and community food projects
- [Scottish Dietary Goals](#)
- Proportion of public and private sector food businesses implementing the Eating Out, Eating Well framework and code of practice for children's menus

Targets/other measures

- Halve childhood obesity by 2030 and significantly reduce associated diet-related inequalities
- Increase levels of adult healthy weight
- Reduce adult diet-related health inequalities

Outcome 6.

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

Indicators

- Number of engagements with international colleagues on food system
- Greenhouse gas emissions produced by the agriculture sector

Targets/other measures

- Existing legally binding annual emissions reduction targets including: 75% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 (compared with a 1990 baseline), and net zero emissions by 2045
- Scottish Ministers have international commitments to address biodiversity loss, articulated in the Global Biodiversity Framework of the UN Convention on Biodiversity, which includes targets relating to reducing the global footprint of consumption, global food waste, overconsumption and waste generation
- The Scottish Government have made a #123 Food Loss and Waste Pledge for Climate Action

Question 3

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

Strongly agree

Question 4

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

Strongly agree

Question 5

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

We welcome the explicit mention of the need for continued funding to deliver the national strategy: Sustaining Scotland; Supplying the World within the targets for Outcome 4. The strategy, which involves many partners and is led by Scotland Food & Drink, is ambitious around responsible growth and sustainability,

and will continue to evolve to ensure our home market is well served, but does require sustained investment to deliver the far reaching objectives.

One of the biggest benefits of Good Food Nation will come from a renewed focus on local produce. With some of the best produce in the world right here, we will continue to champion efforts to ensure more of what we produce is consumed here. We recognise that part of that challenge is to ensure people can afford local produce, considering that it often carries a premium due to high production standards and associated higher costs. As such, we think it may be necessary to find more solutions that address this tension, and it may help to include a target, or indicators linked to this, although more work is needed to develop and define these.

Regarding public procurement, this has a significant role to play in any national food system and, although targets will place pressure on procuring bodies and may lead to a further need for investment, the absence of targets may make it harder or take longer to achieve change.

Question 6

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

Strongly agree

Why or why not?

Indicators are essential, and those listed are extensive, and will go a long way towards capturing the key information and driving the changes needed. In general, information captured through indicators should ideally “add up to” the work needed to achieve the outcomes. It appears that those listed, whilst they reflect much of the work needed, may not cover everything that is necessary to ensure the outcomes are achieved. We have set this out further in our response to question 7, with some further possible indicators that may help.

We “strongly agree” with the question asked, that the proposed indicators will be “useful”, but it is important to also consider whether the indicators chosen will provide *all* information needed to demonstrate progress towards the outcomes. In that regard, it is likely that further work will be needed and we welcome the statement that “targets and indicators will continue to evolve during the life of the national Good Food Nation Plan and future iterations will contain updated indicators and targets.”

We hope to be part of that discussion and, indeed, our priority is to maintain dialogue with all those invested in Scotland becoming a Good Food Nation, and to use all the available resources, tools, and capacity across Scotland to ensure a collective effort by the public, third and private sectors to define, measure and work towards all the social, environmental, and economic goals that are connected to food and drink.

Question 7

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

Whilst we think that the range of indicators is extensive, there may be others to consider, either now or over time, to ensure everything needed to achieve and monitor progress towards the outcomes is included. Some of these would require additional surveys, or data collection.

Other Possible Indicators

Outcome 1 (Everyone can eat well):

- Public satisfaction with food provision in their community.
- Business satisfaction with local market opportunities.
- Analysis of food access, availability, and affordability by postcode/LA region – food deserts etc.

Outcome 2 (A sustainable and high welfare food system):

- Volume of meat sold that is certified to QMS or equivalent/better (i.e. organic) standards of production. This will help protect animal welfare in the face of potentially lower standard imports as well as provide incentives to produce and sell higher welfare meat.
- Percentage of grid electricity supplied by renewable sources. This will help recognise that energy use from food and drink businesses is necessarily high (to produce heat or cool down) but can be decoupled from emissions by ensuring renewable sources of electricity.
- Assessments linked to environmental quality where known association with food production or consumption - outcomes-based indicators.
- Total food systems emissions per unit of production – would need further work to agree metric but could offer a useful indicator.

Outcome 3 (A food system that promotes good mental and physical health):

- Mapping micronutrient deficiencies across Scotland by postcode/LA/health and Social Care Board.
- Annual percentage change in prevalent non-communicable diseases attributable to dietary factors (e.g., heart disease, diabetes).

Outcome 4 (A fair, innovative and prosperous food sector):

- Total annual investment attracted to the sector. If available – perhaps by survey.
- Total annual value of grants, tax breaks, and other incentives provided to the industry from the public sector, broken down along supply chain and by funder.

- Economic Multiplier Effect: Quantify the annual economic multiplier effect from the industry, aiming for an increase over time – which would suggest greater value add and local economic benefits.

Outcome 5 (Thriving food culture):

- Survey data on public awareness of and sentiment around food issues.
- Reach of national food campaigns (e.g. Naturally Scottish), measured by audience engagement metrics through various media (social, online, radio etc.).
- Number of community-based food projects. If available – such as community gardens, local food cooperatives and cooking activities.
- Impact assessments of educational programmes for changing eating habits and increasing cooking skills and demand for sustainable, local food options.

Outcome 6 (Global reputation for high quality food):

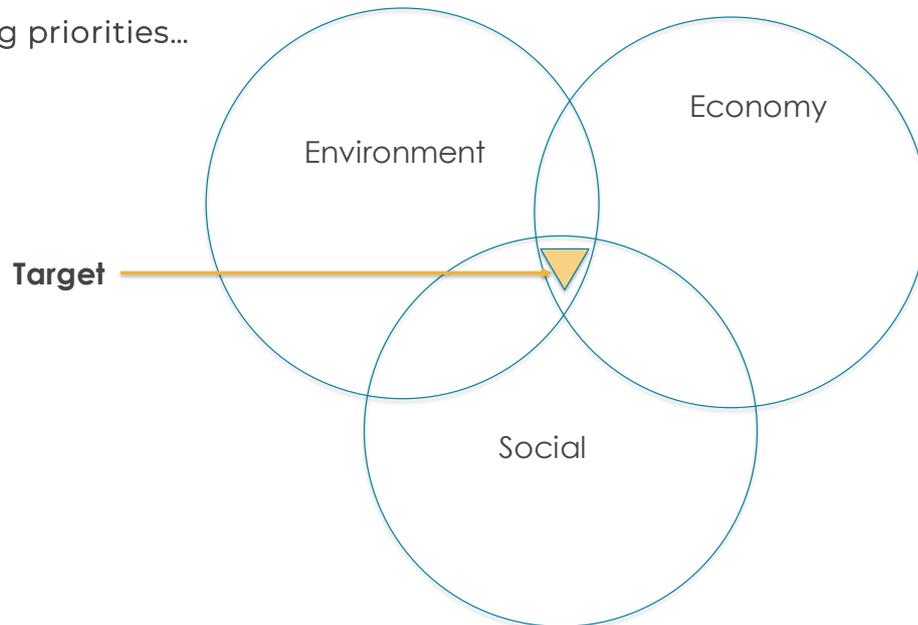
- Economic impact of food tourism, measured by tourist feedback or spend on food-related activities, if achievable.
- International trade (in terms of value added, or sales secured from key events) – to demonstrate international reputation.

Question 8

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

We ideally need to prioritise areas where we can achieve common benefit, which means activities that support positive outcomes for our economy, environment, *and* society (including public health). The point of crossover is shown in this diagram:

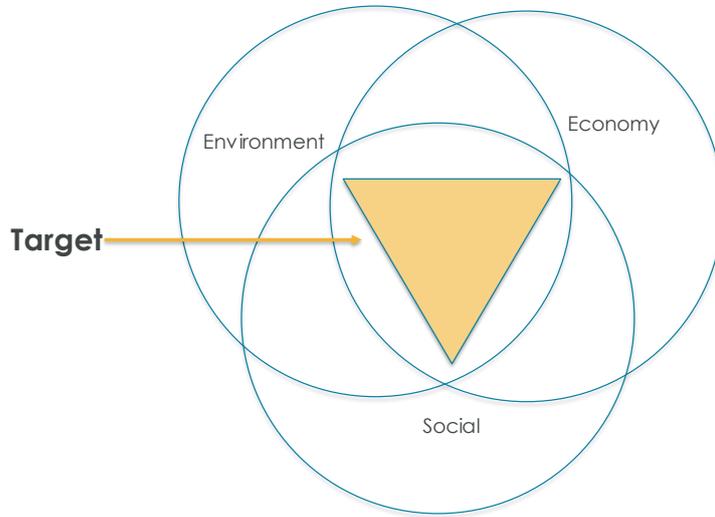
Balancing priorities...



The diagram shows the “golden triangle” as the target, and in this case it is quite small, as it depicts a situation where efforts are largely siloed, with each priority considered separate to the other (e.g. degrowth would boost the environment, but do little for society or the economy; focussing only on public health will do little to protect jobs in the sector; focussing only on profits will do little to protect the environment).

The diagram below shows what could happen if we align our efforts, and bring activities that benefit society, the environment, and our economy closer together. If we can do so then the golden triangle grows, and we will secure multiple benefits across all priority areas. Examples include a decarbonised electricity grid, ensuring more local food in public procurement, helping farmers secure more value in the supply chain, enhancing our UK and export market opportunities, and more.

Balancing priorities...



In our view the Scottish Government's efforts to become a Good Food Nation is an excellent example of a comprehensive policy that can help align our priorities in this way, if we make sure it delivers. This will be determined in part by the outcomes, indicators, targets, and functions that make it up, but is also about securing the necessary investment of time, resource and capacity across the public, third and private sectors to work towards agreed objectives and make a meaningful difference for the people, communities and businesses across Scotland.

Life in a Good Food Nation

Part Three of the Good Food Nation Plan focuses on policies that are already underway and are moving us closer to a Good Food Nation. Text boxes across the chapter highlight what life will be like for different groups of people in a Good Food Nation. These groups were selected to reflect a broad range of roles across the food system but we cannot capture every role and experience. We would like to hear your views on these examples of what life in a Good Food Nation could look like for different groups. Please only respond if you have relevant experience of this group.

Question 9

Snapshot Box: As a child in a Good Food Nation

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

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

Strongly agree

What changes, if any, would you make?

It may be covered within what is already listed but, given the importance of education when it comes to having the practical skills needed, it may help to specifically add “I have been taught how to source ingredients for and cook a range of healthy and sustainable meals before I leave school”.

Question 10

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

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

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

Strongly agree

What changes, if any, would you make?

Question 11

Snapshot Box: As an adult in a Good Food Nation

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

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

Strongly agree

What changes, if any, would you make?

Question 12

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

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

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

Strongly agree

What changes, if any, would you make?

We have produced a paper on procurement, setting out how collaboration in this area is key, and will be working with the Scottish Government and others on next steps, which may be relevant.

Question 13

Snapshot Box: As a retailer in a Good Food Nation

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

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

Strongly agree

What changes, if any, would you make?

Question 14

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

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

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

Strongly agree

What changes, if any, would you make?

Question 15

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

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

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

Strongly agree

What changes, if any, would you make?

Being able to sell more produce locally is particularly important within a Good Food Nation. This could be via wholesalers who provide a vital service to ensure logistical viability – including deliveries into remote and rural communities. It may also involve selling directly (whether to households, retailers or hotels and restaurants) can protect margins, retain value at the production end of the supply chain (which supports resilience), and keep prices down.

We also need to consider what processing, transport, storage infrastructure is needed, and how we invest in that to deliver solutions for producers, and the communities they serve.

Question 16

Snapshot Box: As a fisher in a Good Food Nation

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

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

Strongly agree

What changes, if any, would you make?

Question 17

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

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

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

Strongly agree

What changes, if any, would you make?

Question 18

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

Scotland Food & Drink is committed to supporting the national Good Food Nation Plan, and we look forward to working together with all those involved to ensure we can achieve the rightly ambitious outcomes set out.

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

Introduction to specified functions

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

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

Why are specified functions necessary?

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

How are the specified functions presented?

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

Why are we consulting on specified functions?

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

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

List of specified functions

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

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

Function falling within a specified description:

- The provision of food in schools; health and social care service; prisons; and other public settings including: consideration of food-related procurement; and minimising and disposal of food waste
- The provision of financial; mental health; and community support to reduce food insecurity and socio-economic inequalities in relation to food
- Issuing guidance on appropriate nutrition across all age groups
- Issuing guidance on infant formula and follow-on formula
- The provision of guidance or support related to acute food shortages or civil contingency emergencies / risks that affect food supply
- The provision of food education through the Curriculum for Excellence and food-related education projects that provide information on food production; career opportunities; environmental, health, economic and international impacts of the food system; cultural value of food

Existing Functions within Legislation:

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

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

Functions falling within a specified description:

- The issuing of guidance, strategies and plans related to catching, harvesting, processing, waste, and distribution of seafood
- The consideration of impacts and opportunities related to the Agricultural Reform Programme and the provision of financial support
- The consideration of animal welfare standards in food production, transport of live animals, and slaughter

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

Existing Functions within Legislation:

- When exercising functions under [section 45C Environmental Protection Act 1990](#)
- When exercising functions under [section 8, 14, 15, 17 Agriculture \(Retained EU Law and Data\) \(Scotland\) Act 2020](#)
- When exercising functions under [section 44 Land Reform \(Scotland\) Act 2016](#)
- When exercising functions under [section 13 UK Withdrawal from the European Union \(Continuity\) \(Scotland\) Act 2021](#)
- When exercising functions under [section 23, 28, 29 of Schedule 1 of the Environmental Assessment \(Scotland\) Act 2005](#)
- When exercising functions under [Animal Health and Welfare \(Scotland\) Act 2006](#)
- When exercising functions under [Procurement Reform \(Scotland\) Act 2014](#)
- When exercising functions under [section 2 Nature Conservation \(Scotland\) Act 2004](#)
- When exercising functions under [section 17, 24 Climate Change \(Emissions Reduction Targets\) \(Scotland\) Act 2019](#)
- When exercising functions under [section 54 Aquaculture and Fisheries \(Scotland\) Act 2013](#)
- When exercising functions under [section 56E Education \(Scotland\) Act 1980](#)
- When exercising functions under [section 19C Crofters \(Scotland\) Act 1993](#)

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

Functions falling within a specified description:

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

Existing Functions within Legislation

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

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

Functions falling within a specified description:

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

Existing Functions within Legislation:

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

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

Functions falling within a specified description:

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

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

Functions falling within a specified description:

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

Question 19

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

The functions listed appear to connect well to the outcomes and will go a long way towards ensuring each of the relevant areas such as health, inequalities, education, procurement, business and industry etc. are supported and guided towards the changes needed.

Some possible additional functions:

Outcome 1 (Everyone can eat well):

- Analysis of food access, availability, and affordability by postcode/LA region – food deserts etc.

Outcome 2 (A sustainable and high welfare food system):

- The consideration of renewable sources of energy in the grid.
- The consideration of electrified transport options for businesses.

Outcome 3 (A food system that promotes good mental and physical health):

- Analysis of micronutrient deficiencies across Scotland by postcode/LA/health and Social Care Board.
- Analysis of prevalent non-communicable diseases attributable to dietary factors (e.g., heart disease, diabetes).
- Researching the connection between poverty/inequalities and physical/mental health – and the relationship with food.

Outcome 4 (A fair, innovative and prosperous food sector):

- The consideration of power and value along the supply chain – with policies that address this where an imbalance exists.
- The consideration and provision of market opportunities for local producers within the public sector.

Outcome 5 (Thriving food culture):

- The consideration of public awareness of and sentiment around food issues.
- The implementation of and investment in a national food campaign (e.g. Naturally Scottish).
- The provision of enabling policies for community-based food projects such as community gardens, local food cooperatives and cooking activities.

Outcome 6 (Global reputation for high quality food):

- The provision of further support for international trade, recognising the significant return on investment from such support and how it builds our international reputation.

Something to also consider, either as a discreet function or a tool that connects indicators, is a Good Food Nation Dashboard, to provide a comprehensive digital “map” to illustrate key aspects of Scotland’s food system and how people and businesses are interacting with it, to identify strengths and gaps in the food supply chain, highlight areas of excellence, and pinpoint regions or points of the supply chain which are experiencing issues that need to be addressed.

This could offer “drill down” functionality to support both localised impact assessments and the national picture for trade, resilience, access, industry health etc. It would allow those carrying out other functions to target resources and programs based on data to improve the situation in line with outcomes and indicators.

It would also allow the public to have better access to and sight of the various elements of the food system to learn about food production, sustainability, consumption etc. Such a platform could encourage public participation in food initiatives, enhancing community involvement and awareness. It could feature stories from local producers, updates on sustainable practices, and educational content about the food system.

Question 20

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

The functions suggested above should help to ensure a comprehensive range of functions to deliver activity linked to the outcomes. It is essential that functions are in place to deliver the changes needed. As the outcomes are (rightly) ambitious, requiring significant changes to how we *all* grow, produce, sell, cook, and eat food, the functions are also necessarily comprehensive, and must capture all relevant activities. Additionally, a dashboard could provide the oversight needed to both assess progress for areas that have indicators *and* highlight where new indicators could be added to help ensure we move towards the goals.

We look forward to further discussions around Good Food Nation as plans progress.