

Consultation on Good Food Nation Proposals for Legislation
Contributors- Health Improvement; Education; Corporate Procurement; Operational Services;

Consultation question 1:

To what extent do you agree with the framework proposals for Ministers and public authorities to prepare statements of policy, have regard to them in the exercise of relevant functions, and report on implementation, with regard to international obligations and guidance?

Strongly agree

Agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Please explain your answer.

We acknowledge that there is a requirement to change the culture and behaviours regarding food consumed in Scotland and realise the health, economic, community, environmental and sustainability benefits of doing so. There is a consensus that any policy must be cross cutting and include all aspects of food and health from farm to fork. We agree legislation will help in doing this but that any policy should be easily translated at local level and include relevant local outcomes.

Any new legislation should be flexible and take account of the wide range of policies already in existence that would support the delivery of the aspirational aims of the Good Food Nation policy. For example, procurement legislation already makes reference to the provision of food, and is part of the current Corporate Procurement Strategy; Education refer directly to the National Child and Infant /NHS guidance of Setting the Table to inform the way they deliver learning experiences relating to food and the provision of food within Early Years settings. For this reason there needs to be recognition that current legislation exists that covers some of the proposals within the Good Food Nation so there needs to be a clear links within the policy to other policies and action plans rather than duplication.

Changing a food culture is complex and there needs to be a coordinated approach. Therefore any policy development should be progressed from an early identification of shared outcomes and indicators so that the effect of actions can be maximised and a stronger sense of partnership developed. Organisations require resources to assist in developing and managing the policy and report on implementation. The proposals may see increased costs to local authorities and consideration should be taken in how these will be funded (regulation, inspection and compliance)

Consultation question 2:

Whilst we do not plan to require all sectors to prepare statements of policy on food, they do all have a role to play in achieving our Good Food Nation ambition. To what extent do you agree that Government should encourage and enable businesses in particular to play their part?

Strongly agree

Agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Please explain your answer.

A shift in culture to become a 'Good Food Nation' will not be achieved by only focussing on public sector organisations and requires a holistic approach to food consumption which involves all public, private and some form of parental buy-in.

We all agree that working with areas such as the food industry, would have a greater impact but would require a more sustained effort to achieve the desired outcomes. Without the backing or involvement of the major food producers, retailers and wider community we are not going to have the desired impact and progress will be limited.

We agree that government and local authorities can lead by example; however they are a minority in terms of food provision/ access. To bring a cultural change we need the whole environment to change for our population. Again in order to bring businesses on board caution needs to be taken to make sure there are no duplications of current policies and/or legislation that businesses currently have to adhere to i.e. nutritional or food production standards. Either one policy to fit all or clear and concise links to existing policy would be required.

Consultation question 3:

To what extent do you agree with the proposed approach to accountability of Scottish Ministers and specified public authorities?

Strongly agree

Agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Please explain your answer.

We agree, provided accountability was within the control of public authorities and Scottish Ministers, it would be reasonable to legislate accordingly. Depending on the extent to which the nature of the work proposed is, or what the priority is locally and nationally, reporting will only be welcomed if it leads to improvement.

There is concern that as a cross cutting policy there may be reporting differences and challenges in gathering a wide range of information. This needs to be acknowledged and support given to ensure that there is a clear vision where this policy should sit and who drives it.

Consultation question 4:

To what extent do you agree with the proposal for targeted legislation relevant to specific policy areas as an alternative to a single piece of legislation?

Strongly agree

Agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Please explain your answer.

We agree that targeted legislation relevant to specific policy areas would be beneficial to influence where direct improvement is required. Secondary legislation (rather than primary legislation) will ensure that it is easier to amend and update. The legislation needs to have a “golden thread” through other legislation such as school meal nutrition, etc.