

Response ID ANON-UBU6-UN1Z-G

Submitted to **Good Food Nation Proposals for Legislation**

Submitted on **2019-04-17 10:47:27**

Questions

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?

Agree

Please explain your answer. :

We broadly agree with the framework proposals. Ministers and public authorities should have robust food policies to guide their work. Policies must relate to the whole food system – including policies relating to access to good food, environmentally sustainable food production, fair treatment of workers, humane treatment of animals, vibrant food culture and more. Crucially policies must be joined up and reinforce each other, rather than be siloed with unintended consequences. It is also important that progress is measured and reported on regularly.

We believe food systems should have fairness at their heart – and any definition of fairness should consist of three perspectives on social justice: 'fair shares' or equality of outcome; 'fair play' or equality of opportunity; and 'fair say', or autonomy and voice (Food Ethics Council, 2010, Food Justice). Hence it is vital that the Government and public bodies involve as many people and organisations as possible in developing their plan – including those at the 'coalface' e.g. those living in household food insecurity themselves. Only then will any plans be likely to be relevant to people's everyday lives.

We are encouraged that the Scottish Government wants to take action to support the right to food. However, we would like this Bill to enshrine the right to food in law – to help Scotland meet its international obligations and to show that it is serious about leading the world as a genuine Good Food Nation.

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

Please explain your answer. :

We strongly agree with this assertion. Businesses play an important role in our food system and it is vital that Government encourage and enable businesses - small and large - to play their part in achieving Scotland's Good Food Nation ambition.

Through its actions, the Scottish Government can encourage and enable ethical business practice and businesses that contribute to fair, healthy, environmentally sustainable and humane food systems. At the same time, the Scottish Government can discourage and disincentivise those business behaviours and actions that take Scotland away from the Good Food Nation ambition.

Whilst private businesses are key organisations to engage with and influence, it is important to note that everyone has a responsibility and a role to play in achieving Scotland's Good Food Nation ambition. That must include citizens, farmers, civil society organisations, public institutions and more. Everyone must be involved in shaping a food system that works for all - for people, animals, the planet and future generations.

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

Strongly disagree

Please explain your answer.:

We do not agree that reporting to Scottish Ministers and the Parliament is sufficient to ensure Scotland achieves its Good Food Nation ambition. Instead we believe that a strong independent statutory body is needed that can hold the Scottish Government to account. Crucially such a body must have powers to monitor and demand progress.

Food systems are complex and the Good Food Nation ambition covers a wide range of social, environmental and economic issues – hence we support an independent statutory body to ensure a systemic approach is taken. Such a body must have the relevant expertise and be given adequate resources to enable it to fulfil its duties and to ensure the Scottish Government keeps its promises.

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?

Neither agree nor disagree

Please explain your answer.:

The Good Food Nation ambition requires both framework legislation and targeted legislation that support and reinforce each other. Framework legislation should help provide the necessary principles and overarching framework. It must be holistic and cover a range of environmental, animal welfare, health, social justice, economic and cultural concerns. Within that framework, targeted legislation will then be needed to address specific issues.

About you

What is your name?

Name:

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What is your email address?

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Are you responding as an individual or an organisation?

Organisation

What is your organisation?

Organisation:

Food Ethics Council

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

Publish response with name

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

Yes

Evaluation

Please help us improve our consultations by answering the questions below. (Responses to the evaluation will not be published.)

Matrix 1 - How satisfied were you with this consultation?:

Slightly satisfied

Please enter comments here.:

Matrix 1 - How would you rate your satisfaction with using this platform (Citizen Space) to respond to this consultation?:

Very satisfied

Please enter comments here.: