

This document was used during the response collection phase of the Food Issues Census work (Dec 2024–Jan 2025) to support organisations in their participation.

Food Issues Census 2024-2025 - Frequently Asked Questions

1. Is my work relevant to the survey?

This survey looks at not-for-profit or public interest work related to food and farming in the UK. It includes activities happening now or during the last financial year and focuses on organisations working in the UK or receiving UK charitable funding.

It is aimed at those organisations working in and organisation around food. It covers a wide range of work, from small community projects tackling local issues to large campaigns on global challenges. Food doesn't need to be the *main* focus of your work to take part. Here are some examples of work that is in scope for the survey and should be included:

- A project helping young people that includes food growing as part of its activities.
- A social enterprise training refugees to become chefs to help them find jobs.
- A university doing research or advocacy on food and farming for the public good.

If you're unsure whether your work fits, please email nadeen@foodethicscouncil.org to check.

2. Is this a survey of individuals, projects or organisations?

This survey is for organisations. Here's what we mean by "organisation" for this survey:

- Alliances or networks
- Registered charities
- Social enterprises or not-for-profit businesses
- Co-operatives or mutuals
- Community interest companies
- Companies limited by guarantee
- Unincorporated groups (like clubs or one-off projects)
- Trade unions
- Trade associations or professional bodies
- Political parties or faith groups
- Schools, universities, or other education and research institutions

- Public sector bodies (including non-departmental public bodies)

The survey is *not* for individuals or for projects within larger organisations. In those cases, the survey should cover the whole organisation, even if food is only a small part of its work.

This helps us avoid counting the same work twice. If you're unsure whether your work fits or think it should still be included, please contact us.

3. Who should complete the survey for my organisation?

We only ask for one response per organisation, so it's a good idea to discuss with your colleagues who is the best person to fill it out.

The person completing the survey should:

- Have access to your organisation's most recent annual or management accounts.
- Know about your staffing and activities related to food and farming.

In larger organisations, this might be a senior manager responsible for strategy, fundraising, or HR.

4. Is there any support available for people and organisations to participate in the survey?

We are committed to bringing in the experiences of a genuinely diverse range of organisations to this project. To address barriers to participation, we have established the Food Issues Census Inclusion Fund.

The fund aims to provide financial and language support to grassroots organisations and people representing those organisations who may not otherwise be able to engage in the process, including those who are non-native English speakers.

The fund offers payments of up to £250 to support engagement in this work, including the time to complete the survey and/ or time to participate in events relating to the project. Applicants can request an amount based on the time they plan to dedicate. You can read more about the fund and how you can apply [here](#).

5. How do I complete the survey?

You complete the survey on-line by following the NEXT button at the bottom of this page. The survey contains brief instructions to help you answer each question. If you are unable to complete the survey on-line, please contact us.

6. How long will the survey take?

The survey asks up to 43 questions and should take 30 to 60 minutes. This is based on the experience of a small number of organisations testing the survey.

We realise this is a significant investment of your time, but being involved allows you to shape the future of funding - and we hope the results will be useful for your own organisation as well as the wider sector.

7. Can I start the survey now and finish it later?

You can exit the survey at any time by clicking 'Save' at the bottom of any page. When you do, you'll receive an email with a link to continue from where you stopped.

Alternatively, you can use the 'Get Draft Link' option to save a copy of the survey for easy access.

To pick up where you left off, use the saved link or the email link (check your junk folder if it doesn't arrive right away).

8. What kinds of questions does the survey ask?

The survey includes up to 43 questions, starting with basic contact details so we can reach you if needed. Some questions are multiple choice, while others require free-text answers. They cover information about the work you do, people and resources, your relationships and connections, inspiring successes and the future

9. What information will I need to complete the survey?

You will need your organisation's most recent annual or management accounts, financial accounts, and a good understanding of staffing and activities across your organisation's work on food and farming issues.

10. What if I cannot answer a specific question?

Many questions in the survey, marked with an asterisk (*), are required. This means you'll get an error message if you try to skip them. These questions are essential to ensure we collect enough information for a meaningful analysis.

If you can't answer a required question (e.g., if you don't have a website), please:

- Write "Not applicable" for free-text answers, or
- Select the "Not applicable" option from the multiple-choice list.

This will allow you to continue with the survey.

11. What will happen with the results?

The Food Ethics Council will produce a report based on the survey results. This report will be publicly available, and everyone who completes the survey will receive an electronic copy when it is published.

The insights will be shared as both raw data and a detailed report. The survey will provide an overview of current civil society work on food and farming issues and highlight the tasks and recommendations shared by participants.

The Census will act as a trusted reference for funders to better understand the food and farming sector, identify key issues, and spot gaps in resources. This will help funders target their resources more effectively.

It can also be used by participating organisations to support decision-making, advocacy, partnerships, and funding proposals.


12. Who will be able to read the answers that I give?



Most of the data in the report and on the website will be anonymous and aggregated (grouped together). However, there will be some exceptions:

- We will include a list of organisations that have completed the survey.
- We may link quotes or data to an organisation type or role, such as: "A food bank manager in Liverpool said: 'The demand for our services has grown, but our resources haven't kept up.'" or "A farming education organisation in Wales highlighted time constraints and limited funding as their main barriers to collaboration."
- We may create a visual showing how organisations are connected within a system or identifying which organisations see themselves as part of specific movements. In this case, the name of your organisation and the organisations you have relationships with could be shared.
- In some cases, we may want to attribute a quote or data to a specific person or organisation, but we will only do so with their permission.

13. How can I find out more about the organisations involved?

This work is being facilitated by the Food Ethics Council and is being supported by a number of organisations in different ways represented in a steering group working together to design and deliver the work. Below is a list of organisations and their role. You can find out about the organisations involved by visiting the following websites:

Organisation Logo	Organisation Name	Support Role	Website
 Food Ethics Council	Food Ethics Council	Project facilitator, steering group member	www.foodethicscouncil.org

	Sustain	Steering group member	www.sustainweb.org
	Platform London	Steering group member	www.platformlondon.org
	A Team Foundation	Funder, steering group member	www.ateamfoundation.org
	Treebeard Trust	Funder, steering group member	www.treebeardtrust.org
	Farming the Future	Funder, steering group member	www.farmingthefuture.uk
	Esmée Fairbairn Foundation	Funder, steering group member	www.esmeefairbairn.org.uk
	Ennismore Foundation	Funder, steering group member	www.ennismore.com
	Nourish Scotland:	Country partner (Scotland), steering group member	www.nourishscotland.org.uk
	Food Sense Wales	Country partner (Wales), steering group member	www.foodsensewales.org
	Play Think Brink	Country partner (Northern Ireland), steering group member	www.playthinkbrink.com