



# Good Food Nation – Youth Consultation

## Activities and Discussion Guide

# What is a Good Food Nation?

The Government's vision is of a place:

*'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.'*

# Good Food Nation consultation

The Government recognises that to help us achieve that Good Food Nation ambition, some new laws could help.

They are asking for your opinion on their proposals / ideas about the type of law and responsibilities that are needed. This discussion will help you to decide what is important to you about a Good Food Nation and then tell the Scottish Government.

# Activity 1 – Which of these do you think is law?



1) You must not run while holding scissors.



2) Children have the right to an education and must attend school.



3) Pre-packed food must display certain labels e.g. ingredients list (if more than 1 ingredient)

# Activity 1 – Which of these do you think is law?

## ANSWER:

1) is not a law.

2) and 3) are laws.

# Activity 1 – Which of these is law - Discussion

- 1) Why do you think there are laws about these things?
- 2) What could happen if we didn't have these laws?
- 3) Have we always had these laws? Why not? Why do we have them now?
- 4) Why is there no law about running with scissors?

# Activity 1 – Possible points raised in your discussion

- We use laws to create the society we want.
- Many laws are there to protect us. They protect us physically and protect our rights against abuse from for example, other people or businesses.
- Laws can be changed over time in response to new technology and/or behaviour.
- There are laws to make sure that people **do** certain things e.g. wear seat belts, put an ingredients list on pre-packed food (if there's more than 1 ingredient)
- There are laws to make sure that people **don't do** certain things e.g. sell us things that are not what they say they are. (Do you remember the 2013 horse meat scandal?)
- It is not appropriate to legislate for everything. People also need to be responsible for themselves.

# Activity 2 – Why do we need laws to build a Good Food Nation?

Scotland has excellent produce and talent but there are also challenges and things that need to improve.

Think about food in your own local area, at school, at home and in your community.

Raise a hand if in your own experience you know of people who...(see next slide):



# Activity 2 – Why do we need laws to build a Good Food Nation?

- Are not always sure they will have food to eat every day.
- Are coping with diet-related ill health.
- Are hungry when they arrive at school.
- Work in the food industry but on low wages.

# Activity 2 – Why do we need laws to build a Good Food Nation?

Raise a hand (or keep your hand up) if you have heard about some global problems to do with our food that also affect Scotland:

- Climate change
- Biodiversity loss e.g. bees, orangutans
- Loss of soils
- Pollution in the sea

# Activity 2 – Why do we need laws to build a Good Food Nation?

Look at the Food Facts information and discuss:

- Which of these are important to you?
- Why?

# Activity 2 – Why do we need laws to build a Good Food Nation?

With each one that is important to you, discuss:

- Why is this happening? What is causing it?
- What could happen if this continues?
- Are people's rights or physical safety at risk?
- If so, could that risk be reduced by making a law about it?

# Responding to the Good Food Nation Consultation

The four questions in the consultation ask how far you agree or disagree with statements and for an explanation of your point of view.

Discuss. Decide. Explain.  
Submit your reply online.

# Responding to the Good Food Nation Consultation

For each of the four consultation questions:

1. Read the question and summary provided.
2. Discuss it.
3. Decide how far you agree or disagree.
4. Make a note of the main points of why you agree or disagree.
5. When you have answers to all 4 questions, submit your reply online.

# Responding to the Good Food Nation Consultation

Each of the four questions has three slides:

1. The question.
2. Information you will need to answer it (Question 1 has the most).
3. Suggested areas to discuss/think about.

# Question 1 (slide 1 of 3)

## 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?

## Question 1 is asking

***How far do you agree with the proposals for Ministers and some public authorities to make a food policy and then:***

- *make sure that they remember the policy when they should do,*
- *report on any progress made towards putting these policies into actions and the success or otherwise of those actions and,*
- *remember international agreements and guidance when they make the policy.*



# Question 1 (slide 2 of 3) – What is proposed?

The proposals are about how the Government will make sure that the right to food is met through putting these processes in place. Scottish Ministers and some others will have to make a food policy. Scottish Ministers have responsibility for different things from Trade, Investment and Innovation to Children and Young People so the food policy will go right across the different parts of Government.

These policies should COVER:

- The whole food system including: the way we grow, produce and sell food, foods we eat and waste, our access to affordable, local and nutritious food, food in schools and hospitals, food education and skills.
- How progress will be measured.

Ministers and public authorities should:

- CONSULT people (ask for information and ideas) when they are writing their policy.
- PUBLISH their policy so people can see it.
- REMEMBER the policy when they should do.
- REVIEW the policy every 5 years to see if it is still relevant.
- REPORT on the policy every 2 years and give information on:
  - food availability; how stable the food supply is; how accessible food is; how adequate it is; how sustainable it is and; how it meets international agreements.

# Question 1 (slide 3 of 3) – suggestions for discussion

- The Government wants to make sure that the right to food is met. To achieve this, would it help to state clearly the right to food will become law?
- What do you think the right to food means?
- Who should be consulted when writing the policies? (e.g. scientists, farmers, foodbanks)
- Should the different policies from the Scottish Ministers and public authorities link together?

# Question 2 (slide 1 of 3)

## 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?

## Question 2 is asking

The Government recognises that other sectors e.g. private business in the food industry must all be involved in creating successful change, however they will not be asked to make a policy on food. How far do you agree that the Government should help them to participate?

## Question 2 (slide 2 of 3) – What is proposed?

The Government is worried that it would be unfair to ask Scottish businesses to have a food policy as other food businesses, outside Scotland, wouldn't have to do it. However, the Government realises that private businesses of all sizes are an important part of making changes work for us all.

The Government proposes that it will encourage and enable business to get involved. This could be through, for example, providing money to help businesses make changes, or putting limits and guides on how they operate.

We know that limits and guides work. Remember the 'Which of these is law?' activity.

## Question 2 (slide 3 of 3) – suggestions for discussion

- Rank these in order of importance to you. Businesses should sell food that is:
  - a) Healthy.
  - b) Hasn't harmed bees or other wildlife.
  - c) Hasn't caused cruelty to animals.
  - d) Which doesn't contain pesticides.
  - e) Which doesn't involve cutting down the rainforest.
  - f) Which isn't produced by child labour or slaves.
  - g) Which gives farmers a fair price and food workers a fair wage.
- Should businesses be made by law to do all or any of these?
- Should the Government also offer support to food businesses that are already providing healthy, sustainable, safe, secure food?

# Question 3 (slide 1 of 3)

## Question 3

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

## Question 3 is asking

How far do you agree with the Government's ideas for HOW Scottish Ministers and public authorities explain their progress on putting their policy into action and what the impact of it has been?

# Question 3 (slide 2 of 3) – What is proposed?

What is being accountable? Here's a couple of explanations:

- Doing what you said you would do and saying what the impact has been AND saying if something hasn't been done, or hasn't worked well, and giving a reason why.
- Being responsible for what you do or don't do and being able to give a satisfactory reason for it.
- Who you are accountable to is an important factor.

The Government says that they think it will not be good use of money to have an independent group of experts to review their progress. However, there are independent groups like this currently helping the Government with other areas of its work e.g. the Poverty and Inequality Commission helps Government work towards the aims of the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017. The proposal is that Ministers will not report to an independent group but instead:

Who they would report (be accountable) to:

Public authorities should report to Scottish Ministers and Scottish Ministers should report to parliament.

What they (Scottish Ministers and some public authorities) should report on:

- They should publish their policy (what they plan to do) and then, every 2 years say what progress they have made on the actions in the plan and what the impact of those actions has been.

## Question 3 (slide 3 of 3) – suggestions for discussion

- You make a promise to tidy/clean up after yourself at home, at school or at work. Who do you make that promise to? Who or what will help you to keep it even when you have other things to do?
- Every head teacher does their best to make sure that the school is as good as it can be. There is also a group of inspectors who come in to make sure that the school is as good as it can be and help them to keep improving. Do you think that having inspectors is a good way to do this, or not? Why?
- Do you think that a group of independent experts would be a good way to make sure that Scottish Ministers policies are as good as they can be or not? Why? (Remember that this is not proposed)



# Question 4 (slide 1 of 3)

## 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?

## Question 4 is asking

How far do you agree with the proposal to have targeted laws to resolve different food issues separately, instead of having a single law?

## Question 4 (slide 2 of 3) – What is proposed?

The Government sees that laws will need to be developed across different areas e.g. health, diet, food waste to help achieve the wide range of improvements that are needed.

The proposal is to have a framework law first, that targeted laws can be added to later. This would be instead of having to decide all the details for both the framework and the targeted laws all at the same time.

You are asked to choose between two options. Think of them as two different ways to make a pizza. For both of these options, you will need a base to hold it all together (framework law) and then the toppings (targeted laws).

For a single piece of legislation, you would choose and agree the base and all the toppings at the same time and try to make it all work together at once. The option proposed by Government is to build and agree the base first and then add the toppings to it a few at a time, over time, agreeing them as we go and checking that they will work together.

# Question 4 (slide 3 of 3) – suggestions for discussion

It is very important to decide what the main purpose of Good Food Nation laws should be. This should be embedded in the framework legislation. Deciding what you want to achieve by a certain date will guide what targeted laws we develop.

- What should be the core purpose of our food system? Do you think it should be our health / social justice / education / making money / care of the environment or something else?
- Thinking back to the food issues that are important to you, (it might be food insecurity, pollution etc.), what do you want to be achieved by when? Here are some examples:
  - All schools provide the opportunity for all its students to grow food outdoors and the means to use it as an ingredient in a meal by 2025.
  - Reduce diet-related disease by half by 2030.
  - By 2030, young people are protected from the financial power of global companies to advertise unhealthy things to eat.
  - Greenhouse gas emissions from the food system are halved by 2030

# Submit your responses online

NOW – complete the online form and submit your response to this consultation here:

[www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/goodfoodnation](http://www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/goodfoodnation)

by 11pm on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2019

# Thank you

Thank you for your time and attention in discussing these issues and contributing your own thoughts and experience to this consultation.

**“Food is the single strongest lever to optimise human health and environmental sustainability on Earth.”**

Report of the EAT- Lancet Commission January 2019