

Good Food Nation Consultation Youth Discussion

Introduction, activities and the four questions

These activities are designed to help you / your group provide answers that best represent your views. They offer help with some key understandings and questions to stimulate your discussions. You can print out this document and work through it. There is a powerpoint version to guide your discussion too. There's also a blank response form you can print out and use during your discussions to record your vote results and key discussion points for when you fill in the online response form.

Discussion Introduction – you can use this text to introduce the activities and discussion

The main job of any parliament is to make laws. The main function of the Scottish Parliament is to make laws which affect the Scottish people. Some laws, such as in the Climate Change Act (Scotland) 2009, will also affect people around the world too. In consultations like this one, Scottish people and groups are asked what they think of proposals for new Scottish laws. The outcome of such consultations must be attached to the draft bill (proposed law) so people's replies can be seen publically.

The Scottish Government is currently asking about their proposals for laws towards being a Good Food Nation. This discussion will help you to decide what is important to you about a Good Food Nation and then tell the Scottish Government.

Structure of Activity and Discussion

- Activity 1 – Which of these is law.
- Activity 2 – Why do we need laws to build a Good Food Nation?
- Responding to the Good Food Nation Consultation Overview and Helpful Information.
- Questions 1 – 4.

Activity 1 – Which of these is law?

ASK:

Which of these 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)

ANSWER:

- 1) is not a law.
- 2) and 3) are laws.

Have a short discussion about the purpose of these two laws.

ASK:

Why do you think there are laws about these things?

What could happen if we didn't have these laws?

Have we always had these laws? Why not? Why do we have them now?

Why is there no law about running with scissors?

Prompts to help focus discussion points:

- 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 one 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.
- Laws are also made that give parliament powers to work towards improving things.

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:

- 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

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

LOOK at the Food Facts information and DISCUSS:

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

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 Overview

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 at www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/goodfoodnation

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 four questions, submit your reply online.

Each of the four questions has three sections:

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

Explanation of some words/terms:

- *What and who are public authorities?*
 - o They are 152 different organisations covering health, central government, local councils, commissioners and tribunals. Your local council and NHS health board are included and here are a few others that you may have heard of: Education Scotland, Food Standards Scotland, Cairngorms National Park Authority, Creative Scotland, Skills Development Scotland, Scottish Natural Heritage, SportScotland, Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Scottish Water. The full list is here: <https://www.mygov.scot/organisations/#scottish-government-executive-agencies>
- *What is a statement of policy?*
 - o It is a declaration of plans and intentions saying what they (a person or an organisation) want to achieve and how they think it should be done. Targets can be included as well as what will be measured to see if the policy is working.
- *What are the differences between the parliament and the government?*
 - o The Scottish Parliament is made up of 129 MSPs (Member of the Scottish Parliament) elected by the Scottish people. The MSPs elect one of them to be First Minister. The First Minister chooses which MSPs will be also be part of the Scottish Government as a Cabinet Secretary or a Minister. These choices must be approved by Parliament.
 - o The Government introduces most of the Bills (proposal for a new law, or a proposal to change an existing law) for Parliament to consider. They must be approved by parliament to proceed to become law.

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.*

Q1 - 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 their food policies 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 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 five years to see if it is still relevant.
- REPORT on the policy every two 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.

Public authorities will have similar responsibilities and should:

- REPORT to Scottish Ministers, possibly including:
 - Where they source food for the public plate e.g. school dinners; food waste; access to affordable food; training in food preparation.

Question 1 Example

Here's an example to help you remember the three general points in this question and to illustrate how these three parts might work:

Imagine that the consultation was on 'Being a Well-Dressed Nation' instead.

Ministers decide to lead by example and make sure that they get dressed properly before they go outside every day. This means that for this one part of the policy:

- They would need to REMEMBER this promise before they left the house rather than afterwards. They would need to remember it every time they left the house.
- After two years they would have to REPORT on their progress. That report might say:
 - A minister put up a mirror beside the door so that they could see if they were dressed properly before they went outside.
 - The report includes evidence from daily selfie photographs to show the impact of that action.
 - The photographs show that there are several days where the top and bottom halves didn't go together. The action of putting up a mirror is not working.
 - The minister says that they will check if the mirror is in the best position and if it is big enough to see their whole outfit properly.

When they write the policy, they should:

- REMEMBER GUIDANCE OR RULES FOR DIFFERENT GROUPS they belong to e.g. what to wear when playing sport. They would need to agree to wear the correct clothes e.g. ice skates or football boots and the correct team strip.

Q1 - Suggestions for your 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

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?

Q2 - 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.

Q2 - Suggestions for your discussion

- Rank these in order of importance to you. (See Question 2 Resource.) Businesses should sell food that is:
 - healthy,
 - hasn't harmed bees or other wildlife,
 - hasn't caused cruelty to animals,
 - which doesn't contain pesticides,
 - which doesn't involve cutting down the rainforest,
 - which isn't produced by child labour or slaves,
 - 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

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?

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 a group of experts who are independent of the Government 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 two years say what progress they have made on the actions in the plan and what the impact of those actions has been.

Q3 - Suggestions for your 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 their 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

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?

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 they go and checking that they will work together.

Q4 - Suggestions for your 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 are developed.

- 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 their students to grow food outdoors and the means to use the food 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 has been halved by 2030.