

Scottish Out of School Care Network Response:

Scottish Government Good Food Nation Proposals for Legislation

Closes 18 April 2019 <https://consult.gov.scot/food-and-drink/good-food-nation/>

- 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

- Reasons why: "Specified public authorities would be required to set out a statement of food policy (including indicators or measures of success); have regard to specified international instruments in doing so; have regard to that statement of policy in the exercise of certain functions; and report on progress to Scottish Ministers. The statement of policy might include the origin and sourcing of food by the public authority; food waste; the emphasis on balanced and healthy food; access to affordable food; training in food preparation and purchase etc.; the specific approach taken in e.g. schools (including food education) and nursery schools, hospitals and public buildings. "

We would emphasize the following points from the above statement from the policy:

- Access to affordable food should be a strong human right indicator and measures taken to really address food insecurity should be mandatory in terms of both ensuring such provision and in funding it. For example, providing nutritious food to children during school holidays.
- For food education it is vital that out of school care, breakfast and holiday services are also included in this list as well as in providing the means for them to access training and resources to deliver good food.

. 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?

AGREE

Food products already have to contain nutritional information and to encourage responsible practice there should also be an environmental impact labelling scheme to encourage better environmental practice in food production and disposal of food waste. At first this should be a voluntary scheme but longer term it may need to be mandatory, as is the case for many measures we must be taking to protect the environment.

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

Neither Agree nor Disagree

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We understand that the reporting systems suggested for public bodies and within government are set up to create accountability mechanisms for this policy, and that generally the principle of not setting up another external body to duplicate such functions is a sound one. However, there is also the point that a strong group with specific expertise in the various interconnected aspects of this food policy could provide objective and rigorous scrutiny on the progress made (or lack of it).

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?

AGREE

Agree in terms of the fact one single piece of legislation would be extremely complex to cover all related areas such as diet, health, food education etc. Nevertheless there should be some monitoring of the other legislative proposals to ensure that they are in line with this overarching policy.

SOSCN 16 April 2019