

Background briefing to The Good Food Nation (Scotland) Act and the draft GFN Plan

Scottish
Food
Coalition

#GoodFoodNation



The Good Food Nation (Scotland) Act

Fleshing out a GFN vision for Scotland

In 2014, the Scottish Government published "***Recipe for Success: Scotland's National Food and Drink policy, becoming a Good Food Nation***", a strategy document outlining its proposed national food and drink policy. It set out a new vision for the nation, that by 2025 Scotland would be:

"a Good Food Nation, 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."

Source: **Recipe for Success: Scotland's National Food and Drink policy, becoming a Good Food Nation**
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/recipe-success-scotlands-national-food-drink-policy-becoming-good-food>

The Good Food Nation (Scotland) Act

Core Principles

This legislation places a requirement on the Scottish Government to develop and implement a National Good Food Nation Plan, and also requires other relevant authorities (32 Local Authorities and 14 Health Boards) to develop and implement Local GFN plans.

In preparing these GFN Plans, all must take into consideration:

- the fact that adequate food is a human right and essential to the realisation of other human rights;
- the fact that each part of the food system (see next slide) and supply chain plays an important role in the provision of food;
- the role a sustainable food system and supply chain can play in mitigating climate change, halting and reversing loss of biodiversity and improving animal welfare;
- the ability of high-quality, nutritious and culturally appropriate food to improve the health and physical and mental wellbeing of people;
- ensuring the food business sector (defined as persons carrying out businesses involving any stage of the production, processing and/or preparation/service of food to consumers) continues to be a thriving part of the Scottish economy, having resilient supply chains, operating with fair work standards and contributing to resilient local economies across Scotland.

The Good Food Nation (Scotland) Act

What do we mean by “Food System”

The food system encompasses everything and everybody that influences, and is influenced by, the **activities involved in bringing food from farm to fork - and beyond.**

It **links producers to consumers** and influences, as well as being influenced by, economic, political and environmental contexts, as well as health and social dimensions.

It involves everyone and everything that plays a role in food production, transport, access...

It also reflects the **connections** between all these elements - i.e an action in one part of the system will have **repercussions** across the system.



The Good Food Nation (Scotland) Act

In a Snapshot...

Establishes an **Independent Food Commission** – scrutiny, reporting, recommendations and advice

Adequate food is a human right and essential to the realisation of other **human rights**

Designed to drive improvements in **health and wellbeing, environmental, social and economic** outcomes

Systems-oriented legislative framework that, in principle, drives stronger policy coherency, legislative compatibility and parliamentary scrutiny

Places responsibilities on the SG and relevant authorities to produce **Good Food National Plans**

Requires inclusive **public consultation** for National and Local Good Food Nation Plans

Outlines a set of **outcomes and indicators of progress**



The Good Food Nation (Scotland) Act

Outcomes, Targets and Indicators

- All GFN plans (National and Local) must set out the main outcomes to be achieved, the indicators (or other measures) by which progress in achieving outcomes may be assessed, and the policies they intend to pursue in order to achieve the stated outcomes.
- In preparing these plans, the Scottish Government and Relevant Authorities must also take into consideration how food-related issues can affect outcomes relating to (among other things):
 1. social and economic wellbeing
 2. environment (climate change, wildlife and natural environment)
 3. health and physical and mental wellbeing
 4. economic development
 5. animal welfare
 6. education
 7. child poverty

The Good Food Nation (Scotland) Act

GFN Plan Development, Consultation and Reporting

- The draft National GFN Plan was published 24 January 2024. GFN Local Plans will follow.

Public consultation must be undertaken during the preparation of the Plans.

This is taking place from 24 January to 22 April 2024. The National GFN Plan must then be laid before parliament for 60 parliamentary days.

- The National GFN Plan must be developed and approved within 12 months of the commencement of the Act.
- Local GFN Plans are to be developed and approved in the 12 months that follow the publication of the National GFN Plan.
- Progress reports for all plans must be published every 2 years (starting from the date the 1st plan is formally published), with full review every 5 years.

The draft National Good Food Nation Plan

Outcomes as outlined in the plan (part 1)

To implement the GFN Act, the Scottish Government aims for the GFN Plan to

- transform the country's food system to ensure everyone in Scotland can access nutritious, sustainable food;
- set out the ways in which the Scottish Government will work with businesses and organisations across society to help connect people to locally produced, high-quality food;
- cover everything from farm to fork and beyond, and draw together a range of different policies.

The draft GFN National Plan outlines **6 Good Food Nation Outcomes:**

1. **Everyone** in Scotland eats well with reliable access to safe, nutritious, affordable, sustainable, and age and culturally appropriate food.
2. Scotland's food system is **sustainable** and contributes to a flourishing natural environment. It supports the Scottish Government's net zero ambitions, and plays an important role in maintaining and improving animal welfare and in restoring and regenerating biodiversity.

The draft National Good Food Nation Plan

Outcomes as outlined in the plan (part 2)

The draft Good Food Nation Plan outlines **6 Good Food Nation Outcomes:**

3. Scotland's food system encourages a **physically and mentally healthy population**, leading to a reduction in diet-related conditions.
4. Scotland's food and drink sector is prosperous, diverse, innovative, and vital to national and local economic and social wellbeing. It is key to making Scotland **food secure and food resilient**, and **creates and sustains jobs and businesses** underpinned by **fair work standards**.
5. Scotland has a **thriving food culture** with a population who are interested in and educated about good and sustainable food.
6. Scotland has a global reputation for high-quality food that we want to continue to grow. Decisions made by the Scottish Government **contribute positively to local and global food systems transformation**. These decisions are informed by and contribute to best practice internationally.

The draft GFN Plan consultation invites respondents to comment on whether these Outcomes are relevant and cover everything.

The draft Good Food Nation Plan - Public Consultation

Why taking part matters

- **Food is everyone's business.** An open and engaging national conversation about the future of the food system in Scotland is crucial.
- In helping to shape public policy, you are **exercising your rights as a citizen.**
- For the public consultation to reflect the diverse interests and aspirations of all, the Government needs to **hear a wide range of views - including yours** - prior to submitting the Plan for parliamentary approval.

Taking part in this public consultation process can:

- influence and support the implementation of the GFN Plans at Local and National levels;
- connect, empower, and inspire a Community of Practice for food systems transformation;
- evidence public interest in prioritising impactful, health-centred, net-zero aligned food systems transformation solutions;
- contribute to growing Scotland's experience of implementing ground-breaking, progressive food systems legislation;
- inspire other countries (and regions) looking to, and/or preparing similar legislation.

The draft Good Food Nation Plan - Public Consultation


How to take part

The Scottish Government published the draft National Good Food Nation Plan on 24 January 2024.

The public consultation process is open and is inviting responses to:

- the **Outcomes** outlined in the plan
- its **ways of measuring progress** (indicators & targets)
- and **how different groups envision life in a Good Food Nation.**

To share your response:

- **READ** the draft Good Food Nation Plan (download the full document [here](#); “Easy Read” version [here](#))
- **RESPOND** to the consultation **by 22 April** - either directly via [CitizenSpace Scotland](#) - or bring more voices together: host a Kitchen Table Talk. 

Want to support wider participation? Host a Kitchen Table Talk

The Scottish Food Coalition wants to encourage and support as many people as possible to feed into the draft GFN National Plan before it goes to Parliament.

We have put together a [resource pack](#) to support you in exploring the Plan as a group. To find out more, please visit:

[foodcoalition.scot](https://www.foodcoalition.scot)

or email

[info \[@ \] foodcoalition.scot](mailto:info@foodcoalition.scot)

